



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: March 2, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds for the restoration and improvement of Hollywood Bowl Overlook, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 for the restoration and improvement of Hollywood Bowl Overlook, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The Hollywood Bowl Overlook, located at 7036 Mulholland Drive, is one of the primary visitor features of the fifty five-mile Mulholland Scenic Parkway and Corridor, one of the most famous thoroughfares in the country. Constructed in 1924, twenty four-mile Mulholland Drive in the City of Los Angeles was envisioned by the famous Water Bureau Chief and City Engineer, William D. Mulholland, as a scenic road that would transport city dwellers to the mountains and beaches. MRCA manages seven scenic overlooks on Mulholland Drive.

The most easterly of the seven scenic overlooks, the Hollywood Bowl Scenic Overlook is situated to provide a beautiful view of the Hollywood Bowl Amphitheater, downtown Los Angeles, and, on a clear day, the ocean and Catalina Island. To the east, the Hollywood Sign and Griffith Park Observatory are clearly visible, and to the north the San Fernando Valley. The Overlook was built concurrently with Universal City Overlook in 1984 in preparation for the Summer Olympics. Since its opening, the Overlook has proved to be an extremely popular tourist destination, with visitors coming by the hundreds on tour buses as well as automobiles. The high visitation has caused more than normal wear and tear on the resources, and the parking area is not optimally designed to accommodate multiple tour buses.

A capital improvement project is proposed to improve visitor accommodations and restore the site's resources. An initial site assessment indicated that the following conditions need to be addressed: fencing and gates damaged by automobile collisions, erosion of the hillside from extended visitor use, unstable portions of the

Agenda Item VIII
March 2, 2011
Page 2

retaining wall, parked buses blocking auto access, vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, and dated signage and interpretive wayside displays. The requested grant funds will be used for planning and engineering, approvals, and construction of improvements.

Consideration: The amount of the grant application is \$250,000.