



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing approval of application for Statewide Park Program grant funds for the following projects: Franklin/Ivar Park, Pacoima Wash – El Dorado Park, and Marsh Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approval of application for Statewide Park Program grant funds for the following projects: Franklin/Ivar Park, Pacoima Wash – El Dorado Park, and Marsh Park.

Background: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) authorized \$5.4 billion for the protection of the State's drinking water and water resources. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is administering the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program. The funding amount authorized under this grant program totals \$368 million and was made available through the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction chapter in Proposition 84. The "Grant Guidelines" published in April 2009 require that applicants submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body. Applications for the second round of funding are due July 1, 2010 and require an updated resolution or draft.

MRCA staff will be submitting applications for three projects: Franklin/Ivar Park, Pacoima Wash – El Dorado Park, and Marsh Park. Staff submitted applications for these projects for the first round of funding. None were successful in obtaining funds, however, feedback received from our Grant Officer encouraged re-submission. The Grant Officer explained that the MRCA projects scored well but compared to the applicant pool in round one our projects were not located in areas that were the most severely park poor or economically disadvantaged. Staff have improved each project application per the specific feedback received from the Grant Officer.

Franklin/Ivar Park: The proposed project is a 1 acre site in the heart of Hollywood, Los Angeles, California. The site is bordered by an elevated off-ramp of interstate highway 101, local arterial street Franklin Avenue and a residential street Ivar Avenue. The site is currently planted and fenced off, much like other underutilized highway parklands. The land is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is working with Hollywood Dell Civic Association to convert this site into a park. The grant request will fund the following features of the park: an amphitheater, Hollywood overlook (with views to Palos Verdes beach community on a clear day), carbon eater screen, bike rack, solar powered water feature, adventure play area, wi-fi seating area, public art, grotto area, solar panel shaded area and an attractive security fence. Hollywood Dell Civic Association has spearheaded this park development and is aggressively working to secure funds to develop the site and have committed to funding maintenance and operation. They are scheduled to go to their governing board in July to authorize a letter of agreement to raise maintenance and operation funds for the park site.

Pacoima Wash - El Dorado Park: The proposed project will develop a one and a quarter acre site adjacent to the Pacoima Wash (a tributary of the Los Angeles River), in the City of Los Angeles (City), into a public park. The project is a partnership between the MRCA, the the City of Los Angeles (Department of Recreation and Parks), and Pacoima Beautiful. The parcel was acquired in 2009 by the City for the purpose of developing public park space. The grant request will fund amenities at the site including native riparian landscaping, typical passive park amenities (such as seating and interpretive displays), and stormwater management elements. The project will eventually be one of several parks linked together by the planned Pacoima Wash Greenway Path.

Marsh Park: Currently, the 5.4-acre Marsh Park site includes approximately 41,000 square feet of industrial space, an approximately .75-acre natural park, an approximately 2-acre vacant lot and an approximately .25-acre skate park. The industrial space consists of three buildings. The current phase of Marsh Park will include development of the 2-acre vacant lot and demolition of the two smaller industrial buildings. This phase of the park improvements will include native habitat restoration, protection of water resources through treatment of on-site stormwater with a system of arroyos and detention basins, recreation amenities and picnic facilities. The grant request will fund picnic and community gathering areas, including a shaded structure for community gathering. The focus of this structure will be to interpret the natural resources of the Los Angeles River, and could also be used to host group events and community events.

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Should Statewide Park Program funds be awarded for any aforementioned project, their respective funding gaps will be closed as a result.