



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 9, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of funds from the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority to implement the Construction Document and CEQA phase of the Park to Playa project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of funds from the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority to implement the Construction Document and CEQA phase of the Park to Playa project.

Background: The goal of the Park to Playa project is to create a seamless regional trail that connects urban residents with the natural coast. This goal will be realized through coordination between multiple-agencies and jurisdictions. Once completed, the final trail will be a total of approximately 13 miles and will cross through and connect the trail systems of parks and open spaces within the Baldwin Hills, along Ballona Creek, in the Ballona Wetlands and along the Pacific Ocean. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is working in partnership with Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA), LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Baldwin Hills Conservancy, City of Culver City, Office of County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, and others to realize the vision of the project.

On April 15, 2010, the governing board of the BHRCA took action to authorize a funding agreement in the amount of \$150,000 with the MRCA for work on the feasibility report and implementation plan (FR/IP) for Phase I of the Park to Playa regional trail project. MRCA contracted with Alta Planning & Design as the consultant for the preparation of the FR/IP for this phase of the work. The FR/IP is a document that fully evaluates the seven-mile portion of the Park to Playa trail in the Baldwin Hills. The feasibility report evaluates alignment and connectivity alternatives, identifies key connection points, and explores trail design to a level sufficient to determine the feasibility of this portion of the Park to Playa trail. The implementation plan includes recommendations for short- and long-term phasing

alternatives, identifies necessary acquisitions, geotechnical and environmental investigations, and permitting requirements for the successful implementation of this trail. The final FR/IP is scheduled to be completed and in final printed form in mid-November 2011.

At this time BHRCA is moving forward with the Baldwin Hills Parklands portion of the trail, initiating Phase II of implementation and planning. Phase II work is comprised of producing Construction Documents, CEQA analysis and permitting for this 7-mile segment. On August 15, 2011 BHRCA Board approved additional funds in the amount of \$1.18 million to the MRCA due to MRCA's extensive knowledge, expertise, and prior performance with this project. MRCA plans to amend the existing agreement with BHRCA for these new funds and request the potential advancement of those funds prior to starting any work and authorizing any contracts for this phase.