



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 11, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Penfield and Smith Engineering for the Malibu Road Accessway .**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Penfield and Smith Engineering in the amount of \$155,669.00 for the Malibu Road Accessway.

Background: The Malibu Road Accessway project will establish a new public access way in Malibu to Amarillo and Malibu Colony beaches, which will be the only public access point between Malibu Lagoon State Park and Amarillo Beach. Construction plans for a concrete stairway structure were commissioned by the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), completed in 2008, and turned over to MRCA in 2010 when SCC granted funds to MRCA for implementation.

Staff planned for the same consultants to make minor revisions to the existing construction plans for final permitting, bidding, and construction of the accessway, and the Board authorized professional services contracts for that work. Subsequent to those authorizations, the engineering firm would not accept MRCA's standard contract terms and staff was unable to negotiate mutually agreeable terms. Staff then contacted Penfield and Smith Engineering to determine if they would be able to take over engineering for the project, and assume responsibility for the plans. Penfield's review of the existing plans identified several areas of concern regarding the concrete design, including the ability of the structure to withstand wave impact forces and scouring. Given these serious engineering issues, at this time MRCA and SCC staff have concluded that a complete redesign to a combination timber and concrete structure is the best course of action to resolve the technical and public safety issues. Preparing new surveys and engineering studies also ensures that the plans meet all current City requirements and codes. Furthermore, a timber structure will cost less to build and be easier to maintain and repair than the existing all-concrete design.

Penfield and Smith Engineering is a multi-disciplinary engineering firm with experience in public works projects in the coastal environment, including a similar access structure recently constructed in Santa Barbara. MRCA has previously worked with the firm on other projects located in the City of Malibu and they performed satisfactorily. In addition to engineering, Penfield and Smith will provide permit processing assistance with the City, construction observation services, an updated topographic survey, and will coordinate the work of other consultants. The proposed design team includes Noble Consultants, Inc. to provide oceanographic design criteria and evaluate potential coastal processes impacts, and Shannon and Wilson, Inc. to perform a geotechnical investigation and provide data for design of foundations.

Consideration: The proposal from Penfield and Smith is \$141,517. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies, for a not to exceed total of \$155,669. The contract will be funded by an existing grant from the State Coastal Conservancy.