



# 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: January 11, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to fund the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to fund the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park, Los Angeles.

Background: The project site is comprised of 1.55 acres of City-owned, underutilized land located at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek in the neighborhood of Tarzana in Los Angeles, California. While the site currently contains weedy vegetation and an asphalt area, it has over 670 feet of riverfront and is within walking distance of school, residential and commercial populations.

The proposed Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park project will restore habitat, filter urban runoff and improve public use amenities in a manner consistent with the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan lists the site as an opportunity site for habitat restoration and water quality improvement. The plan highlights how Caballero Creek drains an area of the Santa Monica Mountains and creates a critical habitat linkage between large habitat patches in the mountains and the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The ecological significance of the site is an essential aspect because the park is in proximity to two high performing high schools which have programs that prepare students for college, especially in the areas of environmental science. The Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park will enhance their education by providing a dynamic ecosystem that will serve as an outdoor laboratory.

The project has been vetted by relevant Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County departments, culminating in a recommendation by the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Created as the result of the Los

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Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, the Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee was established in January 2010 to streamline multi-agency review of Los Angeles River projects. The project is a great opportunity to partner with the City of Los Angeles which has agreed to maintain the park and allow the MRCA to design and build it.