



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 14, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(j): Consideration of resolution adopting greenway Project Plan and a Youth Employment Plan for the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop project funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution adopting greenway Project Plan and a Youth Employment Plan for the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop project funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

Background: The Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop project primary goal is to connect open spaces through trails and gateways by constructing needed improvements along the Ballona Creek bike path and creating connections to surrounding parks in the Baldwin Hills, along the bike path and to the Ocean. Specifically, the scope of the project is to develop new trails, install decorative gates, native landscaping, and interpretive, wayfinding and connection signage along the Park to Playa connection route. One of the opportunity areas for this project, identified by MRCA staff, is a .5 mile "greenway" which will connect existing improvements at Inglewood Blvd. Gateway to the 405 Freeway by Culver/Slauson Park. The greenway project entails improving existing portions of vacant land adjacent to the bike path with the installation of a 4 foot pedestrian path, native plant landscaping, irrigation, and interpretive and wayfinding signage. These improvements are all in line with the overall goal of the Loop project.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (Proposition A District) adopted a new Procedural Guide in June 2009 that requires that project plans must be approved by the Governing Board. This is a requirement in order to receive project development cost reimbursement. The greenway project plans are attached hereto for adoption.

Additionally, the Proposition A District requires that, as a condition of receipt of funds

under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996, grantees must spend a minimum amount on the employment of at-risk youth, as determined by grantee's Youth Employment Goal. A Youth Employment Plan must be adopted for each individual project funded by the District that includes the following:

- the tasks or elements of work to be performed by at-risk youth from the community in which the project is being performed;
- an estimate of the amount of project funds to be spent on employment of youth;
- the method or methods by which youth will be recruited and employed; and

A duly adopted Youth Employment Plan is one of the required documents needed prior to the reimbursement of development costs. Attached is the Youth Employment Plan for the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop that explains how the project works toward meeting the Youth Employment Goal.

MRCA staff are currently working with Proposition A staff to continue the process of getting reimbursed for the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop grant as improvements get conceptualized and installed.