



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** September 18, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VI(n): Consideration of resolution approving the application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for First Supervisorial District Excess Funds for Los Angeles River Center and Gardens Tree Planting project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for First Supervisorial District Excess Funds for Los Angeles River Center and Gardens Tree Planting project.

Background: On May 9, 2012, Supervisor Molina announced a \$1.8 million competitive tree planting grant program for projects in the First Supervisorial District. Eligible projects consist of purchase, planting and a period of maintenance of the planted trees. Priority will be given for projects that demonstrate the greatest need to replace trees lost in recent windstorms and communities seeking to plant more trees in public places. Applications were due August 30, 2012 and staff submitted a grant application for tree planting at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.

The late 2011 windstorms caused damage to several of the River Center's mature trees. Before acquisition in 1998, the buildings and grounds had been vacant for over seven years, and irrigation was not provided to the extensive plantings. As a result, many of the trees were weakened and damaged. The most devastating loss from the windstorm was a mature Ficus located near the San Fernando Road entrance, which had a huge limb fall onto a shade structure. MRCA's emergency crews removed the downed limb immediately but were not equipped to take out the rest of the tree. Eight other trees on the property also sustained significant damage and now pose a hazard. A total of nine trees will be removed and eighteen trees added to the grounds.