



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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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(s): Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for design-build services for the Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path Improvement Project, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for design-build services for the Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path Improvement Project, Los Angeles.

Background: The Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path Improvement project will create a 0.50 mile Greenway on currently vacant land along the northern portions of the bike path between the improved Inglewood Boulevard Gateway and the 405 Fwy. The project's construction scope consists of demolition, installation of native plant landscaping, irrigation, and pedestrian path improvements in addition to the existing interpretive panels previously installed in the project area. LACC is also recruiting youth from the adjacent Mar Vista Gardens for paid positions to help landscape and build the greenway. They are committed to keeping the locally hired youth on payroll as long-term staff. Through this project, MRCA staff hope to achieve stronger and safer connections to the bike path and also create a safer and greener bike path itself.

This project is a partnership between many different agencies and Community Based Organizations: MRCA is partnering not only with LACC but also Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Ballona Creek Renaissance, Friends of the Ballona Wetlands, Mar Vista Family Center, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and Baldwin Hills Conservancy to pull our resources together and create a greenway along this 0.50 mile stretch of the bike path.

The project construction began in June 2012 after much back and forth with the County Flood Control District and US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the

planting palette. Due to the Army Corps' relatively new Vegetation Policy, many of the plants originally planned for the project were no longer allowed and a new planting plan and irrigation plan were required to be developed. Once finalized, it was determined that the cost for these new, approved plants and irrigation systems was much higher than what the original plan called for. LACC had not included the cost of new water meters in their original cost proposal in 2010, and this \$13,100 line item now needs to be added.

Additionally, as construction has continued, numerous unforeseen conditions have been discovered that are resulting in increased cost and extended schedules. The demolition of the footings for existing chainlink fencing proved to require more manpower, larger and more costly equipment, and take longer than anticipated. Additionally, the City of Los Angeles is in construction in Culver/Slauson Park, adjacent to our project, and has built a new access gate to the bike path with a pedestrian path that MRCA now needs to connect to. This was not anticipated when we first contracted with LACC in 2010. Lastly, the length of trenching and piping needed to connect the irrigation main lines to the water meter locations is much longer than anticipated. For all of the described reasons, an augmentation is necessary to complete the project and make it available for public access. Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Proposition A is the funding source for this project.

On January 6, 2010, the MRCA Board authorized a contract with Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) for design-build services for the project in the amount of \$125,000. Due to the recent unanticipated changes, LACC submitted a revised budget in the amount of \$195,198. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposed amount to allow for more contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize an augmentation of the existing design-build contract with LACC in an amount not to exceed \$90,000, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$215,000.