



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 IX: Consideration of resolution approving the Milton Street Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the Milton Street Park project.

Background: The Milton Street Park Project is located in the City of Los Angeles adjacent to the Ballona Creek and consists of a 1.2-acre vacant rectangular parcel owned by the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA). The current project scope includes on-site park improvements as well as off-site "green street" creation. The on-site improvements will include a shade structure on elevated platform for shade and birdwatching opportunities, multi-functional lawn space, pedestrian pathways, bicycle garden with bike racks, new entry gateways with ADA-accessible ramp, outdoor classroom, overlooks, native landscaping, interpretive panels, seating, and other park amenities. Green street improvements to the adjacent street include Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as Vegetated Stormwater Curb Extensions (VSCEs) located on both sides of the street to clean dry and wet-weather runoff, native landscaping including native street trees and shrubs, storm drain screens to capture trash, cross walk, and sidewalk on south side to improve public safety.

In March 2008 funding was granted to the MRCA by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) and State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for the planning and design phase of the project. Staff immediately began work advertising for and contracting with the landscape architect (SWA) and held a series of community design workshops. In December 2008 the project was suspended due to the State funding freeze. In January 2010 MRCA resumed work on planning and design activities for the park which include finalizing the design and completing the CEQA compliance.

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) were prepared. Adoption of the MND is a separate item on the Board's agenda, and that action must occur prior to

approving the project. Approval of the project shall occur before a Notice of Determination is filed, which is the final step of the negative declaration process.

The subject project is currently in the planning and design stage, and construction documents are underway. Once plans are complete, construction of the project will be publicly bid in accordance with MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures.