



# 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 XI: Consideration of resolution approving the Marsh Street Park project.**

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

Background: Marsh Park is located in the community of Elysian Valley in the City of Los Angeles, adjacent to the Los Angeles River. Improvements to the three-acre site will include an open-air picnic shelter, landscaped walking and nature trails with health and fitness stations, a restroom building and storage shed, a free play meadow, picnic tables, a community gathering/outdoor classroom area, bioswales, and parking for forty-three cars. Project construction will include demolition of the two existing on-site buildings, site grading, park construction and landscaping.

The 5.4-acre property was acquired in 2001. In 2006, the first phase of improvements was completed and planning and outreach began for Phase II. That design process continued until late 2008, when the State suspended the use of bond funds. In late 2010, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy awarded grant funds to MRCA to complete design and construction of Phase II.

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.