



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: December 5, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under the Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code for the Franklin/Ivar Park Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program under the Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code for the Franklin/Ivar Park Project.

Background: The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program, as provided by Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, authorizes the allocation of up to \$10 million each fiscal year for grants to State, local and federal governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities. The "Grant Guidelines" require that the applicant submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body. Applications for funding in the 2012-2013 fiscal year are due January 4, 2013.

Staff plans to submit an application for the Franklin/Ivar Park Project in the Roadside Recreation category. The Franklin/Ivar Park project is the conversion of a 0.83-acre vacant parcel at the intersection of Franklin and Ivar Avenues into a publicly-accessible natural park with an amphitheater, view areas, paths, seating, public art and gathering areas. Located in a densely built-out area of Hollywood, the site is bordered by an elevated off-ramp of interstate highway 101, the heavily-traveled Franklin and Ivar Avenues, and it is surrounded by multi-family residential buildings. The land is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for operation and maintenance of the park was authorized by both agencies in July 2012.

The project was spearheaded by the Hollywood Dell Civic Association (HDCA) and

is a rarely found opportunity to add recreation, open space and natural habitat in an area with a critical lack of park space. In partnership with HDCA, MRCA applied for and received \$2,000,000 of Proposition 84 funding from California State Parks through the competitive Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization program. The EEM program funds, if awarded, would provide supplemental funding for tree planting and park development.

The maximum grant award in this program is \$350,000.