



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 IX: Consideration of resolution approving the application for competitive tree-planting grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Second Supervisorial District excess funding for Park to Playa project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for competitive tree-planting grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Second Supervisorial District excess funding for Park to Playa project.

Background: In September 2012 Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas announced the availability of \$750,000 for a competitive tree-planting grant program in the Second Supervisorial District. The maximum grant amount is \$150,000 per project. Applications for the excess funds are due on December 20, 2012. Staff has identified the Park to Playa project as an area where the funds could be used.

The goal of the Park to Playa project (project) is to create a seamless regional trail that connects urban residents with the natural coast. This goal is being realized through coordination between multiple-agencies and jurisdictions. Once completed, the final trail will be a total of approximately 13 miles and will cross through and connect the trail systems of parks and open spaces within the Baldwin Hills, along Ballona Creek, in the Ballona Wetlands and along the Pacific Ocean.

Currently, staff is working with Alta Planning and Design to complete the Construction Documents (CDs), CEQA, and permits for the project. The CDs include improvements to existing trails, restoration areas, and creation of new trails, plantings, and amenities within the Baldwin Hills from the Stocker Corridor to Ballona Creek. This current phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2013 and construction could begin in July 2013. This grant would fund irrigation related costs, and the purchase, planting, and a period of maintenance of the planted trees along a portion of the Park to Playa trail.

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Consideration: The requested funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (Prop A) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to construct a portion of the Park to Playa trail improvements and accomplish the goals described above.