




MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: January 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Los Angeles for park development projects including the Pacoima Wash-El Dorado Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Los Angeles for park development projects including the Pacoima Wash-El Dorado Park.

Background: In an effort to expedite partnerships with the City of Los Angeles (City) for the development of new parks, MRCA staff has been working with City staff to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). For past projects, the City and MRCA executed a standalone agreement for each project that detailed specific roles and responsibilities for a single site. Once this master agreement is in place, MRCA and the City will be able to partner on new projects by only executing an amendment for each project. The amendment process is expected to be less time-consuming than execution of a full agreement, thereby expediting development of future projects. In general, MRCA will be responsible for planning and construction of projects, and the City of Los Angeles will be responsible for on-going maintenance of those projects. Specific roles and responsibilities will be defined for individual projects as they become feasible and funded.

El Dorado Park, adjacent to Pacoima Wash, is a project that has been under development for several years. The site was identified during greenway master planning for Pacoima Wash, and the City acquired the 1.25-acre property in 2009 for the purpose of developing public park space. In 2012 MRCA was awarded funds from the Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Program, Department of Parks and Recreation Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for planning and development of a natural park. Planned improvements include native plant landscaping and irrigation, nature trails, picnic and free play areas, low-tech stormwater treatment, visitor amenities and interpretive elements.