



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX : Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority to design, construct, and maintain the Ballona Creek - Milton Street Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority to design, construct, and maintain the Ballona Creek - Milton Street Park project.

Background: The Milton Street Park Project is located in the City of Los Angeles adjacent to the Ballona Creek. It includes a 1.2-acre vacant rectangular parcel which will be converted into a publicly-accessible natural park with pedestrian pathways, new entry gateways, ADA-accessible ramps, a shade structure for birdwatching, multi-functional lawn space, outdoor classroom, overlooks, stormwater management components, native landscaping, interpretive panels, bike racks, seating, and other amenities. The land is owned by the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA).

In partnership with BHRCA, Baldwin Hills Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy, MRCA staff previously completed the planning and design phase of the project. Construction Documents (CDs) are currently being reviewed by the City of Los Angeles for permits. Funding for the construction phase has been secured from multiple agencies: Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC), State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), and BHRCA.

Since the MRCA does not hold title to the land, SCC is requiring a formal Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the MRCA and the BHRCA that outlines the obligations and responsibilities of the MRCA. Specifically, according to SCC's requirements, the term of the MOU must be twenty (20) years, and must

address agreement with the landowner as to site control roles and responsibilities. MRCA will manage the construction of the project and plans to maintain the park site after construction is complete.

The proposed action would authorize a MOU that meets the grant program's requirements, including a twenty-year term. The BHRCA Board had previously authorized this MOU.