



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI (f): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the implementation of reaches five and six of the Los Angeles River Master Plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the implementation of reaches five and six of the Los Angeles River Master Plan.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop land interests and public recreation resources in the Conservancy's jurisdiction, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for the implementation of reaches five and six of the Los Angeles River Master Plan.

The Los Angeles River Master Plan "recognizes the Los Angeles River as a body of resources of regional importance and recognizes that those resources must be protected and enhanced". The intent of the Plan is to create a document that identifies ways to revitalize the multitude of publicly-owned rights-of-way along the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash into "urban treasures". The Plan identified and organized several segments of the River into six reaches/sections. As part of this planning grant, the MRCA proposes to execute and implement reaches five and six of the Plan. Doing so will maintain the River as a resource that not just provides flood protection but also presents opportunities for recreational and environmental enhancement, and improves aesthetics and quality of life for the communities within the region. Given these opportunities, and potential project funding availability over the next two years, staff expects that the grant application will be for \$100,000 pending confirmation of funding availability

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The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 9.5 miles of Los Angeles River from the headwaters of Chatsworth Creek and Arroyo Calabasas, through the Sepulveda Basin, to the confluence at Tujunga Wash, and includes 9.5 miles upstream of Tujunga Wash from the confluence to and including the Handson Dam area. See attached map.