



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: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI (g): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Griffith Park to El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Recreational Trail Corridor.**

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 Griffith Park to El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Recreational Trail Corridor.

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 Griffith Park to El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Recreational Trail Corridor.

The planning and design project within the Griffith Park to El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Recreational Trail Corridor would build upon recent MRCA park projects in this area. The area provides countless opportunities to connect isolated publicly- and privately-owned areas of both vacant and developed land to each other while creating new habitat linkages and recreational possibilities within established communities. Highly dense, yet park poor, neighborhoods hug this section of the Los Angeles River. Much effort is required to improve and revitalize these spaces to create cleaner and greener communities and waterways. This project would work towards achieving these goals. Additionally, this segment consists of approximately 9.5 miles of the soft-bottom section of the Los Angeles River which serves as habitat and houses a large population of wildlife within the River. Creating open space directly adjacent to these areas is vital in sustaining the wildlife and creating an additional buffer between them and dense urban Los Angeles. Not only would

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additional open space be a benefit to local wildlife, it would be a benefit to human populations in need of respite from urban grit and exercise. Given the opportunities, and potential project funding availability over the next two years, staff expects that the grant application will be for \$150,000 pending confirmation of funding availability

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 16 miles of Los Angeles River from the 101 Fwy., past El Pueblo State Historic Park, to the area within downtown Los Angeles. The project area includes lands directly adjacent to the Los Angeles River running through Griffith Park, Elysian Park, and slightly south of the El Pueblo State Historic Park. See attached map.