



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: September 4, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution approving the application for competitive excess funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for fourth Supervisorial District excess funding for Ballona Creek Regional Gateway project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for competitive excess funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Fourth Supervisorial District excess funding for Ballona Creek Regional Gateway project.

Background: In June 2013 Supervisor Don Knabe announced the availability of \$2,000,000 for a competitive trails grant program in the Fourth Supervisorial District. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 per project. Applications for the excess funds are due on September 16, 2013. Staff has identified the Ballona Creek Regional Gateway project as a project for which the funds could be used.

The Ballona Creek Regional Gateway Project (project) is a new project identified by planning staff. The project area is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County within the area of Marina del Rey adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands. Much like the previously completed Gateway improvements at Ballona Creek's Centinela, Sepulveda, Inglewood, McConnell, and Duquesne access points along the Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path, this project aims to significantly improve an existing, but unimpressive and deteriorated, public access point located at the mile marker 0.00 of the bike path at Fiji Avenue. The improvements may include new signage, interpretive panel(s), decorative archway, connection gate to the Ballona Wetlands, fencing, bike racks, trash can, bench(es), and possible native landscaping and irrigation.

This access point currently lacks any formalized amenities which would identify it as the gateway to the bike path. The project will convert this under-utilized public space into a safe, accessible, and inviting space that will act as the official gateway to the

bike path. These improvements are significant because this Gateway will be used as resource and amenity within the future 13-mile Park to Playa Regional Trail currently in planning.

Consideration: The requested funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (Prop A) in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to construct the Ballona Creek Regional Gateway improvements and accomplish the goals described above.