



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 2, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing approval of application for grant funds from the Urban Greening Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for the following projects: Franklin Ivar Park And Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing approval of application for grant funds from the Urban Greening Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for the following projects: Franklin Ivar Park And Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park.

Background: Urban Greening Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) will allocate a sum of \$70 million for urban greening projects that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits. The Strategic Growth Council is administering the Urban Greening Grant Program for the California Natural Resources Agency. The "Grant Guidelines" (October 2012) require that applicants submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body.

Franklin Ivar Park: The Franklin-Ivar Park project will convert a vacant 3/4-acre lot owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy into a natural park in the heart of urban Hollywood. The site is down slope from a freeway ramp and in a densely populated area. Elements of Franklin-Ivar Park include a 170-seat amphitheater for both scheduled and impromptu performances, California-native plant demonstration garden, picnic area, play elements for young children, and a view path. The amenities will include shaded seating, bicycle racks, picnic tables, stairs for exercise, and public art incorporated into the design. The project planning and design is already underway with secured grant funding from California State Parks.

This Urban Greening grant proposal is for additional tree planting in the park to provide mitigation of the urban conditions and air pollution. The proposed additional planting will be incorporated into the construction documents as a bid alternate, allowing the project to proceed prior to a grant award decision by the California Resources Agency.

Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park: The proposed project will develop a one and a half-acre site adjacent to the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek, in the City of Los Angeles (City), into a public park. The project is a partnership between the MRCA and the City of Los Angeles (Department of Recreation and Parks, and Bureau of Sanitation). The site is an underutilized parcel owned by the City and currently used to store excess materials and vehicles. The grant request will fund amenities at the site including native riparian landscaping, typical passive amenities (such as seating and interpretive displays), stormwater management elements, and an open air outdoor classroom set in a multi-use watershed education zone. Nearby Reseda High School students will monitor the project and use it for hands-on learning and community service. The park will be operated and maintained by the City of Los Angeles.