



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: October 2, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract for professional services with Pareto Planning for Malibu Coastal Access Public Works Plan and associated California Environmental Quality Act documents.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the resolution authorizing a contract for professional services with Pareto Planning for Malibu Coastal Access Public Works Plan and associated California Environmental Quality Act documents.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is proposing to complete the planning and conceptual design for improvements (e.g., new stairs) to eight accessways in order to provide public access to several beaches in the City of Malibu. MRCA would prepare a Public Works Plan (to be submitted to California Coastal Commission) and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents for the proposed public access improvements. This project is being funded by a \$470,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), where all work done by consultants shall be done in accordance with the Grant Requirements presented in the attached "State Coastal Conservancy Requirements for Consultants."

At the current time, there are eight sites to be included in the PWP. These sites are a combination of the following vertical access easements, vertical access deed restrictions, land owned by MRCA, and land owned by SCC:

- (1) Las Tunas Beach- Harner/Hundley, vertical access easement held by MRCA;
- (2) Las Tunas Beach- MRCA-owned land;
- (3) Las Flores Beach- Lent, vertical access easement held by State Coastal Conservancy (SCC);
- (4) La Costa Beach- Wayne, deed restriction in favor of public access;
- (5) Carbon Beach and La Costa Beach- SCC-owned land;
- (6) Escondido Beach- vertical access easement held by MRCA at Geoffrey's restaurant;

- (7) Escondido Beach- Clark, deed restriction in favor of public access; and
- (8) Escondido Beach- Wildman/Mancuso, parking access easement and vertical access easement held by SCC.

The purpose of hiring Pareto Planning as the CEQA/PWP Specialist would be to assist in the planning process to complete both the CEQA document and the PWP. As a CEQA/PWP Specialist, Pareto Planning will provide guidance, as needed, to MRCA staff in the preparation of the CEQA document and the PWP. Pareto Planning will write and review sections of the CEQA document and PWP as requested by MRCA staff. In addition, Pareto Planning would do the following tasks as requested by MRCA staff: incorporate designs, answer initial study questions, and provide input on additional environmental and design studies (e.g., traffic study) related to the proposed improvements.

Pareto Planning will work on a time and materials basis not to exceed the maximum amount of \$60,000. After every 80 hours of work (e.g., after 80 hours, after 160 hours total, etc.) Pareto Planning shall not proceed unless there is written approval by the Project Manager or Division Chief (to be retained in the project file) to proceed.

MRCA would hire Susan O'Carroll of Pareto Planning as the CEQA/PWP Specialist for this project. Susan is a CEQA expert with 23 years of experience working on CEQA projects, which include writing EIRs and Negative Declarations, commenting on/criticizing CEQA documents, and training staff on CEQA. Miss O'Carroll played a key role in the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Public Works Plan (PWP) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and MRCA. She worked diligently to complete the work that was critical to completing the documents. She has also worked on a number of other related projects with the MRCA in the past such as the Marsh Park Mitigated Negative Declaration. The expertise of Miss O'Carroll would help make the PWP and associated CEQA documents highly comprehensive, covering a multitude of factors related to the improvements of the accessways.