



# 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: December 4, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing assignment of right to apply for 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds (Big 5-LA River) to the Amigos de los Rios for La Plaza de Cultura Y Artes Outdoor Improvements Project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing assignment of right to apply for 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds (Big 5-LA River) to the Amigos de los Rios for La Plaza de Cultura Y Artes Outdoor Improvements Project, City of Los Angeles, for an amount not to exceed \$773,000.

Background: La Plaza de Cultura Y Artes Outdoor Improvement Project (La Plaza) project site is located in the heart of downtown across Main Street from El Pueblo. La Plaza encompasses two acres along the proposed City Historic Trail and is at a pivotal crossing point for pedestrians coming from Union Station. The trail is currently under development and aims to celebrate and acknowledge the chronology of the City of Los Angeles's establishment and its relationship to the Los Angeles River. The improvements associated with La Plaza will include replacing existing damaged trees, and creating raised planting beds with native and Mediterranean trees and shrubs to provide shade and enhancement of the space. Interpretive exhibits including maps, lighting, and signs will be installed providing information about the heritage value of the plants, history of water's role in the development of the City, historic El Pueblo and will encourage discussion amongst visitors.

A representative of Amigos del los Rios contacted staff about the use of Proposition A Excess Funds and provided the attachments that contain La Plaza's project scope, budget, and site map.

Amigos de los Rios (Amigos) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) established in 2003. They work to create vibrant communities by designing quality public environments in collaboration with local governments, businesses and residents and strive to bring

renewed life to urban neighborhoods. Their mission is to create a regional Emerald Necklace of sustainable open spaces along urban river corridors that connect the mountains to the sea—protecting the environment and strengthening community life for the benefit of current and future generations. They work in the blended Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Watershed on a variety of multi-benefit projects, using sustainable design principles and partnering with green infrastructure design experts to build projects that foster watershed health. Amigos collaborate with the owners of utility corridors, vacant and neglected properties, publicly-owned land, community, residents and other private and governmental organization to build green ways, pocket parks and playgrounds for the use and enjoyment of the many residents of the Los Angeles area.