



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 5, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Los Angeles Conservation Corps for installation of trees and shrubs at Pacoima Wash - Eighth Street Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with Los Angeles Conservation Corps for installation of trees and shrubs at Pacoima Wash - Eighth Street Park project in an amount not to exceed \$85,370.

Background: Construction of the Pacoima Wash - Eighth Street Park is nearly complete in the City of San Fernando. The 4.50 acre multi-benefit project is planned to contain stormwater treatment and infiltration capabilities, wildlife habitat, and a landscaped neighborhood park with passive recreation. MRCA's crews have completed the majority of the park's infrastructure, including the arbors, bridges, and grading. Subcontractors were periodically used to complete work that required specialty trades, equipment, or licenses that MRCA does not possess, or that could be completed more inexpensively than with force account. The work that remains includes planting of ground covers, shrubs, and trees, some modifications to irrigation, installation of site furnishings, installation of signage, and removal of excavated boulders.

In August 2013 MRCA received a tree-planting grant of \$100,000 from a Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (Proposition A) for purchase and planting of approximately 150 additional trees on the site, modifications to irrigation specifically for the added trees, and youth employment. The remaining elements of the project, shrubs, signage, site furnishing installation, etc. are being funded through a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), based in South and East Los Angeles, is one of the largest independent non-profit agencies in the nation. LACC employs approximately 300 young adults and 2,200 junior high and high school students annually to serve the greater Los Angeles community through environmental

enhancement and improvement projects.

LACC has a proven history of success in greening and park projects. The MRCA has successfully collaborated with LACC on several prior projects, including the Marsh Street Park (Phase I), Compton Creek Natural Park (Phase I), and Ballona Creek Greenway projects. The LACC contract is consistent with Section 3.5 (d) of the MRCA Purchasing and Contracting Guidelines. Staff is recommending that LACC be utilized to install the trees and shrubs at the park while MRCA crews finalize the other remaining work including finalization of irrigation, installation of site furnishings and signage. LACC will use at-risk youth to complete the work, and MRCA will be able to count that labor toward the both the tree planting grant and agency's Youth Employment Goal for Proposition A.

Consideration: The contract with LACC will be \$77,609.50 for tree and shrub planting services. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the above amount to allow for contingencies and conditions that may not be evident in the plans or via a visual inspection of the site, for a not to exceed total of \$85,370.

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