



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(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Breen Engineering, Inc. for engineering and design services for the Lopez Canyon Park improvement project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Breen Engineering, Inc. for engineering and design services for the Lopez Canyon Park Improvement project in an amount not to exceed \$64,500.

Background: Lopez Canyon Park, is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. The 125-acre property was acquired in 2008 to preserve and join three previously unconnected sections of the Angeles National Forest along the watershed divide between Lopez and Kagel Canyons. The property includes numerous existing trails and offers the best alignments for the Rim of the Valley Trail between Pacoima and Kagel canyons, as well as direct access to the national forest via the Kagel Canyon Truck Trail to the northeast, Indian Canyon Lateral to the south, and Pacoima Motorway to the southwest. Funding for the property came from 5th Supervisorial District for both acquisition and recreational improvements.

The site has a three bedroom home, leased as a ranger residence, and several out buildings mostly related to equestrian uses over decades. As a result of the 2009 Station Fire destroying several equestrian operation structures, the property includes numerous flat graded areas with connecting dirt trails and roads. The site historically had private horseback riding vendors providing public rides into the national forest and surrounding areas. Many elements are in place for the development of an equestrian trailhead and staging area.

In order to develop Lopez Canyon Park as a regional trailhead for equestrian and hiking, the MRCA plans to improve the property to include: a trailhead parking lot for horse trailers and vehicles, connection to Kagel Canyon Truck Trail, widened

driveway, restroom, potable water, gates, fencing, landscaping, and interpretive signage. Additionally, the MRCA plans to explore the feasibility of adaptively re-using an existing equestrian barn as a picnic pavilion adjacent to an existing corral. If re-use is found suitable, it may be included in the trailhead improvement project. A paved path that is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) would connect the parking lot, restroom, and picnic pavilion.

Section 3.3 of the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures state that for professional services contracts:

The Purchasing Agent shall determine demonstrated competence and qualifications of the services at fair and reasonable prices by reviewing the following documents to be submitted by the professional: 1) a list of the names and contact information for clients for which services were performed in the last five years; 2) samples of the services performed including the scope and cost; 3) a disclosure of any actions taken against the professional; and, 4) a statement of change order(s) to plans or specifications or projects for which services were provided and the reason for the change order(s).

Based on a review of this information and MRCA's past experience with the firm, staff recommends using Breen Engineering, Inc. (Breen) for engineering and design services for the Lopez Canyon Park improvement project.

Breen submitted a proposal in the amount of \$64,500 for Civil, Structural and Electrical Engineering, Construction Documents and Construction Administration professional services. In addition to the engineering services provided by Breen, the proposal includes a topographic survey to be performed by Penco Engineering and a Geotechnical Investigation to be performed by Byer Geotechnical, Inc. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a professional services contract to Breen for engineering and design services in an amount not to exceed \$70,950. The contract will be funded through the existing Proposition A grants for Lopez Canyon and the Development/Restoration of Trails in North and Northeast San Fernando Valley.