



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 13, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services for the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services for the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway project in an amount not to exceed \$424,501.

Background: As part of the 2005 Federal Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration budget, \$983,928 was designated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for planning and design of the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway. On October 29, 2012 the Conservancy Board authorized MRCA to act on their behalf for this project due to MRCA's experience managing projects that span multiple jurisdictions, and because the Conservancy does not have adequate staff to manage the project. The funds were obligated through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in November 2012 and a Master Agreement between Caltrans and MRCA was executed in March 2013.

The proposed 3.25 mile Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway (Bikeway) will run along the banks of Pacoima Wash as one component of a future regional recreational greenway. The Class I Bikeway will be located within some of the most densely populated areas of the San Fernando Valley, along the eastern edge of the City of San Fernando and the Pacoima area of the City of Los Angeles. The Bikeway will connect these communities to the Angeles National Forest providing opportunities for experiencing the natural forest of the foothills, and is a recommended project in the City of Los Angeles' Bicycle Master Plan and the County of Los Angeles' (March 2012) Bike Master Plan. Additionally, the bikeway route will connect visitors to current and future urban parklands including MRCA's Eighth Street Park (under construction) and El Dorado Park (in planning).

Project partners for the Bikeway project include the City of San Fernando, the City

of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, and Pacoima Beautiful. Staff from all of these organizations have been collaborating for several years to plan the Bikeway. The City of San Fernando is in the process of reprogramming \$1.5 million in METRO construction funds for the City's 1.5-mile portion of the Bikeway through the new State Active Transportation Program (ATP) call for projects due May 21, 2014.

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 Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services on the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway project.

Mia Lehrer + Associates submitted a proposal in the amount of \$385,910 for the following professional services: Programming and Site Analysis, Schematic Plans, Community Outreach, Preliminary Right of Way Engineering, Topographical Survey, Develop Engineered Construction Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) suitable for a public bid process for the construction of the bikeway, and Permitting plans through the City of Los Angeles, the City of San Fernando, County of Los Angeles Flood Control District and the Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to the landscape architectural services provided by Mia Lehrer + Associates, the proposal includes civil engineering provided by Tetra Tech Engineers. 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 Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services in an amount not to exceed \$424,501. The contract will be funded through the existing Caltrans grant for the project.