



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract to Malibu Ceramic Works to supply artistic tiles for Marsh Street Park Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract to Malibu Ceramic Works to supply artistic tiles for Marsh Street Park Project in an amount not to exceed \$31,635.

Background: The Marsh Street Park project is northeast of downtown Los Angeles along the Los Angeles River and is currently under construction. One of the many park improvements will include an outdoor classroom that will host interpretation programming that will connect park visitors to the history and natural resources of the Los Angeles River. The outdoor classroom was determined to be an appropriate location for public art that will enhance the public's engagement with the interpretative programs planned for the site. Many of MRCA's river parks and bikeway access points already feature artistic gateways, fencing, interpretative panels, and the proposed contract will continue this tradition.

Staff from the Interpretation and Planning divisions chose sixty images that represent the plants and animals of the Upper Los Angeles River watershed. Over the course of three interpretive programs located at and centered around Marsh Street Park, adults and children from the community were able to select twenty-one images to be depicted on artistic tiles that will be incorporated into the benches in the outdoor classroom. This community engagement process and resulting artistic tiles satisfy a requirement of State Parks funding as part of their Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program of 2008, which awarded the project \$725,000.

Malibu Ceramic Works was established in 1979 as part of the mastercraftsmen revival movement that arose out of a demand for the architectural fine art of the past. In the tradition of local tile artists who flourished during the early part of the 20th century, Malibu Ceramic Works Inc. reinvented the lost art of hand made tile and its

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cultural richness. Malibu Ceramic Works Inc. supplied artistic tiles for the Anthony C. Beilenson Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch. Malibu Ceramic Works Inc. will create twenty-one artistic tiles that will depict images that will interpret the habitat value of the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.

Consideration: The contract will not exceed \$31,635. Malibu Ceramic Works Inc. has submitted a proposal for \$28,759. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the price quote amount to allow for contingencies and conditions that may not be evident at the site.