



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 10, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment to a professional services contract with Alta Planning & Design for the Construction Document & CEQA phase of the Park to Playa project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing amendment to a professional services contract with Alta Planning & Design for the Construction Document and CEQA phase of the Park to Playa project.

Background: The goal of the Park to Playa project is to create a seamless regional trail that connects urban residents with the natural coast. This goal is being realized through coordination between multiple-agencies and jurisdictions. MRCA staff is currently responsible for planning the design and implementation of the project. Once completed, the final trail will span approximately 13-miles and will connect a network of trail systems, parks, and open spaces from the Baldwin Hills Parklands to the Pacific Ocean.

On November 9, 2011, the governing board of the MRCA authorized contract with Alta Planning & Design (Alta) for the creation of Construction Documents, CEQA analysis, and permitting for the 13-mile Park to Playa trail project.

Due to the level of difficulty and public concerns related to the trail alignment running through Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority-owned property ("Segment C"), it was necessary for the team to recently revisit the design and environmental analysis for this piece of the trail. See attached map for reference. As a result, the cost savings of planning and designing the entire trail at once is lost. Therefore, additional costs are now associated with re-evaluating and redesigning the trail alignment, and re-analyzing the environmental impacts.

Funding was originally granted to the MRCA by the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) for this Construction Document and CEQA phase.

On June 10, 2014, the governing board of the BHRCA awarded an additional \$650,000 for the added required work on Segment C described above.

The additional scope of work would include more community meetings, incorporation and engineering of a pedestrian bridge, geotechnical work, completion of final design and related Construction Documents, environmental survey and investigation, generation of an environmental document which will study impacts to air quality, biological resources, hydrology, traffic, noise, etc. for public distribution/comments, Section 106 processing, etc. As this is not a new project, and Alta has consistently been the design firm, it makes sense to simply amend the existing contract with Alta for this work.

The contract amendment with Alta Planning & Design will not exceed \$600,000 and will be funded through an existing Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (Prop A) grant for this project.