



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 5, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with BlueGreen Consulting for design services for the Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with BlueGreen Consulting for design services for the Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park project in an amount not to exceed \$185,818.

Background: The Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park project is currently in the design and planning phase. The proposed project will convert a 1.6-acre site owned by the City of Los Angeles (City) and County of Los Angeles (County) adjacent to the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek into a natural park. The project is part of a larger vision to create a network of parks along a future Los Angeles River bikeway connecting the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach. Once constructed, it will provide multiple-benefit parkland with educational opportunities, water quality improvements, flood protection, and habitat restoration serving a disadvantaged community. The project is a partnership between MRCA, the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, the City's Bureau of Sanitation, and the County's Department of Public Works.

In 2012, MRCA was awarded funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for design and planning of the park. In 2014, MRCA was awarded design and construction funds from the Strategic Growth Council's Urban Greening Project for Sustainable Communities program. Planned improvements include native plant landscaping and irrigation, nature trails, outdoor classroom, stormwater treatment, interpretive elements and landscaping, bike racks and other visitor amenities. Preliminary concepts included an option for riparian or wetland habitat fed by Caballero Creek, and this may be added to the project in the future if adequate funding and a maintenance commitment can be secured.

In 2013, in an effort to expedite partnerships with the City for the development of

new parks, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MRCA and the City was executed. The MOU provides a master agreement to partner on park projects and is intended to be amended as needed to add projects. The subject project will be added to the MOU, which specifies that the MRCA will be responsible for planning and development and the City will be responsible for all on-going maintenance and operation of all improvements.

In July 2014, MRCA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Design Services, including Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents and Construction Administration services. Five proposals were received and staff determined that BlueGreen Consulting (BlueGreen) was the best suited to perform this service. In addition to evaluating the competence and qualifications of each firm relative to the project, the following items were reviewed per the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures, Section 3.3, Professional Services:

- List of names and contact information for clients for which services were performed in the last five years.
- Samples of the services performed including the scope and cost.
- Disclosure of any actions taken against the professional.
- 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).

BlueGreen was the prime consultant on the Pacoima Wash Natural Park (8th Street Park), and MRCA previously worked with the firm's principals on the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration, several parks in Elysian Valley, and general watershed planning, and they have performed satisfactorily. The firm prepared preliminary concepts and a feasibility report for the subject project in 2011. BlueGreen specializes in multi-objective open-space projects such as parks, greenways, and stream and habitat restoration. In addition to the landscape architectural services provided by BlueGreen Consulting, the proposal includes civil engineering provided by John Cruikshank Consulting Engineers, architecture provided by Alan Bernstein, and electrical engineering provided by Silver Roth Associates Electrical Engineers.

Based on a review of this information and MRCA's past experience with the firm, staff recommends using BlueGreen Consulting for design services on the Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park project.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a professional services contract to BlueGreen Consulting for design services in an amount not to exceed \$185,818. BlueGreen Consulting submitted a proposal in the amount of \$168,925, and staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for additional required services that are not known at this time.