

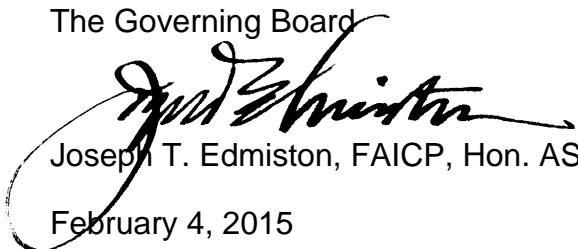


# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** February 4, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for project planning and design of the Los Angeles River with particular focus on the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for project planning and design of the Los Angeles River with particular focus on the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Area in the amount of \$100,000.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop land interests and public recreation resources along the Los Angeles River, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy.

The proposed grant would fund a staff person to liaison with the City of Los Angeles' LARiverWorks team to facilitate completion of key priority projects of the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, also known as Alternatives with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization (ARBOR Study). The purpose of these priority projects is to provide publicly accessible open space along the Los Angeles River, consistent with several of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives. The LARRMP and ARBOR Study project areas are critical components of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. The LARiverWorks office was recently created by Mayor Eric Garcetti to implement goals of the LARRMP and other river efforts.

Objectives of the project planning and design grant are to provide landscape planning, policy, and design to protect, restore, preserve, interpret and develop the land and water resources of the Upper Los Angeles River watershed that lie within

the project area. Project planning and design describes a range of staff activities that prepare a potential project for implementation. Activities performed by the liaison will include, but are limited to, performance of complex landscape architectural work, preparation and checking of designs, plans, specifications and estimates, conducting inspections and tests, collaborating with river partners and stakeholders focused on urban parks development—including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Coastal Conservancy, collecting office and field data, budgeting, and preparing reports and recommendations on a wide variety of landscape matters and projects.