



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Pareto Planning for environmental services for the Pacoima Wash Bikeway project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Pareto Planning for environmental services for the Pacoima Wash Bikeway project in an amount not to exceed \$58,630.

Background: The proposed 3.25 mile Pacoima Wash 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 and urban parklands including MRCA's Pacoima Wash Natural Park and El Dorado Park.

A Schematic Plan for the Bikeway was completed in November 2014, including selection of a preferred alignment, undercrossings, new bridge structures, access points, and crosswalks, as well as potential sites for new parks, street-end water treatment, and artwork. The Schematic Plan has been vetted with community stakeholders and agency partners. The project is now at the point where an analysis of environmental impacts can be completed.

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 Pareto Planning for environmental services on the Pacoima Wash Bikeway project. Due to the use of federal transportation funds for the project, both the California CEQA process and the federally-required NEPA process with Caltrans must be completed. It is expected that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be the appropriate CEQA document for the project, along with a NEPA Categorical Exclusion.

Pareto Planning submitted a proposal in the amount of \$53,300 for the following professional services: NEPA Documentation, Environmental Study (PES) Form, Technical Studies, Traffic Memorandum, Section 4(f) report, and Minimal Impacts Natural Environment Study. 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 Pareto Planning in an amount not to exceed \$58,630. The contract will be funded through the existing Caltrans grant for the project.