



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 16, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 40 funds for capital improvements at Mentryville.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 40 funds in the amount of \$300,000 for capital improvements at Mentryville.

Background: Staff has identified the Mentryville water line infrastructure improvements project as a project of great importance to the continued visitor use, resource protection, and functionality of the park. The project will rehabilitate the main water line servicing the park to improve water efficiency and ensure that a reliable source of water is provided to the park and the park's two California State Historical Landmarks (Mentryville and the Pico No. 4 well).

The rehabilitated water line will eliminate water waste and on-going issues stemming from leaks and mismatched material. Mentryville is already popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, all of which depend on a reliable water source. A water tank is located on-site and is used for fire protection of the historic Mentryville structures, the State Historical Landmarks, and portions of Santa Clarita Woodlands Park.

The Project is crucial because the biggest, most unpredictable threat to Mentryville's historic structures is wildfire. The ability to protect the historic structures from wildfire is wholly dependent on having a reliable water source. In addition, the Santa Clarita Woodlands have a high volume of recreational use, and Mentryville provides an important opportunity to expose visitors to the natural systems of the Woodlands. The currently unreliable water lines break frequently and experience frequent minor and major leaks. During the investigation, inspection, and repair of these breaks,

water service to the park is interrupted, impacting wildfire protection and public amenities such as drinking water and the flush restrooms in Johnson Park.

The Project will be constructed in the location of the existing water line and will follow the same alignment, parallel to Pico Canyon Road. Decisions regarding the specific materials to be used will occur later as the Project is developed. The work will include excavating the old pipeline, laying new pipeline and connections, and connecting the new pipe to the supply and water tank. It is expected that the excavation will encounter numerous boulders and other obstacles, and that some amount of rework to pipe joints will be required as the new pipe fills and pressurizes. Park and resource protection amenities are currently available at Mentryville. The rehabilitation of the water line will further our resource protection goals and ensure that interruptions in water service, now frequent and extensive, are minimized. The ability to protect the historic structures of Mentryville from wildfire is wholly dependent on having a reliable water source. Drinking water and flush restrooms at Johnson Park are also dependent on the water supply reliability.

The Project is part of a larger effort to increase water use efficiency at MRCA-operated facilities within the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. The importance of rehabilitating the water line at Mentryville is heightened during a time of increased awareness of the value of water and when every person and entity in California is being asked to implement best practices for water conservation.