



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 6, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of the Proposition 84 Funds for the Los Angeles River Greenway–San Fernando Valley project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the Los Angeles River Greenway–San Fernando Valley project in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop park lands, public access, and public recreation resources, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for planning related to a San Fernando Valley stretch of the Los Angeles River Greenway. During planning performed for Reaches 5 and 6 of the Los Angeles River Master Plan, as well as the Safe Routes to the River study, staff identified a specific corridor that contained multiple opportunities for public access and parkland improvements, and that is the subject area for this proposed grant.

The specific area to be studied extends along the Los Angeles River from Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Canoga Park High School on the western end, to the Sepulveda Basin on the eastern end, and also extends southward along Caballero Creek and Reseda Boulevard up to Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. Within this study area, many opportunities exist, including several schools, the Caballero Creek Park site currently in planning by MRCA, the open waterways of both the River and Caballero Creek, Reseda Park, the Aliso Creek Park under development by the Trust for Public Land, the Headwaters of the Los Angeles River at the confluence of Bell Creek and Arroyo Calabasas, and a planned extension of the Los Angeles River Bikeway.

The study area also includes many diverse communities in the San Fernando

Valley, including two campuses of a multi-generational care organization, the Jewish Home for the Aging, and the Islamic Center of Reseda. The proximity of Metro's Orange Line Busway increases the opportunities for active transportation, as will the closure of Gap No. 16 in Metro's *Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan*. Portions of Caballero Creek are open with underutilized maintenance roads, and could become river parkways. Reseda Boulevard is already heavily used by hikers and cyclists to access the Santa Monica Mountains. Providing a connection between the Mountains and the River is a goal that has been given little—if any—attention in the multiplicity of River plans that now exist. The opportunity to also connect to the resources of the Sepulveda Basin is another unique aspect of the study area. Many major and minor storm drains in the study area empty directly, unfiltered, into the Los Angeles River and are high-quality opportunities for water conservation projects.

Consideration: The grant application will be for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.