



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 5, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with AHBE Landscape Architects for the Mission Canyon Trailhead project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with AHBE Landscape Architects for the Mission Canyon Trailhead project in an amount not to exceed \$175,010.

Background: The Mission Canyon Landfill is an approximately 500-acre property west of the San Diego Freeway in the Santa Monica Mountains. The landfill was operated from approximately 1959 to 1980 by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. From the landfill's inception, Mission Canyon was intended to be used for park and recreation purposes after the landfill ceased operations. The Sanitation District's original operational agreement (as restated in 1966) specified that all areas were to be covered with a three-foot layer of clean earth, and suitably compacted to accommodate park and recreational use. Drainage systems were put into place to prevent erosion, and filled areas are irrigated to maintain a vegetative cover.

In 2005 the operational agreement was amended to terminate the District's rights to areas of Mission Canyon no longer in use, and set aside funding for the purpose of improving the property for park and recreational purposes. In November 2014, Los Angeles County granted funds to MRCA in the amount of \$1,200,000 to create a public access trailhead at Mission Canyon. The new trailhead will include parking, a restroom, and visitor amenities located in the existing parking area accessed from Sepulveda Boulevard. Improvements will include restoration of native plant species, fencing, gates and signage. There is informal but long-standing pedestrian access to the property off Mulholland Drive, and proposed new improvements here are limited to fencing, gates and signage.

In 2001, MRCA developed a conceptual plan for a more extensive project at Mission Canyon, and the project's designer was Calvin R. Abe Associates, Inc. AHBE Landscape Architects (AHBE) is the successor firm to Calvin R. Abe Associates,

and staff recommends that they be retained for the project given their familiarity with the site and their previous work on the site. Calvin R. Abe Associates also previously worked for MRCA as the designer of the River Garden Park at the Los Angeles River Center.

In addition to evaluating the competence and qualifications of AHBE 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).

Concurrent with the initial phase of design, MRCA staff will work with a CEQA consultant to analyze the trailhead's environmental impacts, and will coordinate with Los Angeles County regarding specific maintenance obligations. At this time it is assumed that these will be limited to the trailhead amenities only (restroom cleaning, trash pickup, plant establishment, etc.) and will not extend into the larger property. Since refuse disposal ended in 1980, the Sanitation District has continued to perform maintenance and monitoring of the landfill, including maintenance of the road and landscape as well as the environmental control systems (methane dispersal, drainage structures, and seepage management).

AHBE Landscape Architects submitted a proposal for \$159,100. 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 with AHBE Landscape Architects in an amount not to exceed \$175,010.