



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 7, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for Tujunga Wash Greenway Infrastructure Improvements project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for Tujunga Wash Greenway Infrastructure Improvements project in the amount of \$100,000.

Background: The Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration project was the first park of its kind along the Tujunga Wash flood control channel. A one mile segment of an underutilized maintenance road for Tujunga Wash was converted into walking paths, restored native plant communities, comfortable benches, interpretive displays, a meandering stream fed by dry weather runoff, views of the Santa Monica Mountains, and a shaded picnic area. The project was planned and engineered from 2000-2006 and constructed in 2007.

The existing irrigation system has deteriorated over the years and experienced extensive vandalism resulting in water waste and ongoing issues stemming from leaks and mismatched materials. The combination of drought and insufficient irrigation is causing a tremendous amount of stress to the plants and needs to be addressed before further damage is incurred to the site due to loss of landscape. The proposed grant would fund rehabilitation of the majority of the irrigation system and ensure that a reliable source of water is available for ongoing maintenance. The irrigation design will reflect today's conditions and available technology, and is necessary to ensure continued visitor use, resource protection, and functionality of the greenway. MRCA intends to transfer the maintenance responsibility for the greenway to the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The improvements will ensure that all amenities are fully operational at the time of transfer. The project is also part of the implementation of MRCA's Water Conservation Plan adopted in June 2015.