



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for the Caballero Creek Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for the Caballero Creek Park project.

Background: The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") was approved by voters in November 2014. Proposition 1 authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Proposition 1 allocated \$100.5 million in funding to the State Coastal Conservancy for multiple benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects (Water Code Section 79731(j)) and for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek (Water Code Section 79735(a)). The Conservancy has begun a competitive grant program on a quarterly cycle. The third round of applications is due March 31.

The Caballero Creek Park will convert a 1.6-acre underutilized site owned by the City of Los Angeles (City) adjacent to the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek into a multiple-benefit park. The project is a partnership between the MRCA and the City (Department of Recreation and Parks, and Bureau of Sanitation). The site is a paved asphalt lot and is not currently used. Once completed, the park will be operated and maintained by the City.

The Proposition 1 grant request will fund planning, engineering and construction of items related to watershed protection, including a bioswale to treat dry weather runoff from Lindley Avenue, and a potential wetland. Preliminary plans also include a cistern to store the treated water from both sources for use in irrigating the site. Preliminary budget analysis indicates that the grant application would be for approximately \$1-2 million.