



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 6, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the operation and maintenance of a new open space area at the Girard Reservoir in Woodland Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the operation and maintenance of a new open space area at the Girard Reservoir in Woodland Hills.

Background: Woodland Hills residents near the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) Girard Reservoir have for over a decade expressed interest in opening up the site for public access. Staff has been working on and off with the DWP staff for over five years on a possible temporary use. Third District Councilmember Bob Blumenfield has been supportive of the idea. The arrangement that the DWP is now considering is a temporary license agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The attached figure shows where public access would be from Mulholland Drive and which parts of the DWP property would be accessible. The rim of the oval earthen reservoir provides a great walking track. All costs of operating the park would be borne by the MRCA. A park opening would require a new gate on Mulholland Drive and internal fencing to keep users in appropriate areas. The DWP likes the idea of another entity maintaining the site. The DWP would have the right to revoke the park uses on short notice. The park is well fenced and it is easy to visibly clear out entrants at closing time. All parking would be on the wide shoulder of Mulholland Drive. The DWP has not proposed final terms or voted to approve the use. However in anticipation of such an offer staff seeks the authority to enter into a temporary use agreement with the DWP to operate a passive open space park in a portion of the Girard Reservoir property.