



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 1, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for Project Planning and Design of the Reseda Park Improvement project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for Project Planning and Design of the Reseda Park Improvement 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 funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (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)). Staff anticipates that the Conservancy will open a competitive grant round for urban creek funding within the next month.

Reseda Park is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department Recreation and Parks. The park spans both banks of the Los Angeles River east of Reseda Boulevard and is connected on the west end by a pedestrian bridge over the river. Although the park features a long stretch of Los Angeles River frontage, it was developed in an era when the river's restoration and recreation opportunities were not recognized. The park's recreational amenities are concentrated on the south parcel, and the north portion of the park is minimally developed. Several new park and river projects are in development in the area, including MRCA's Caballero Creek Park, a future segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway, the Trust for Public Lands' Aliso Creek Confluence Park project, and other opportunities identified in the Safe Routes to the River study.

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City Councilmember Blumenfield's office previously brought the park to staff's attention as an under-utilized resource. With its river adjacency, size, and significant storm drains on abutting streets, the park is an excellent opportunity for a multi-benefit project that features green infrastructure and water conservation. The subject grant application will fund staff work and design to study various options, coordinate with City staff, and complete preliminary design and feasibility studies.

Consideration: Preliminary budget analysis indicates that the grant application would be for approximately \$100,000-\$200,000.