



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 3, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Amigos de los Rios for interpretive signage at Bosque del Rio Hondo.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to Amigos de los Rios in the amount of \$20,948 for interpretive signage at the Bosque del Rio Hondo.

Background: The Bosque del Rio Hondo Natural Area (Bosque) is located in the southern part of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area along the Rio Hondo River near the Rio Hondo spreading basin. The property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, leased to the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, and sub-leased to the MRCA. In 1997, Bosque was developed by the MRCA with funds from a Los Angeles County Proposition A grant. Bosque offers year-round access to the perennial flow of the Rio Hondo, a hiking trail, picnic areas, access to bike paths and equestrian trails, parking, and restroom facilities. The Bosque del Rio Hondo trail system is part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

During the summer of 2015, a large fire damaged a significant portion of the Whittier Narrows, including much of the developed Bosque area. Non-profit organization Amigos de los Rios approached staff about a grant to develop eight new interpretive panels for the park's kiosk. The existing panels, though not damaged in the fire, are outdated and in need of replacement. The new interpretive panels will provide interpretation of the natural history of the Rio Hondo, and its connection to the Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel River watersheds, highlight native vegetation and wildlife, and the history of development of Bosque del Rio Hondo. Text will be provided in English and Spanish.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a grant to Amigos de los Rios in an amount not to exceed \$20,948. Funding for the grant will come from an existing Proposition A grant, and the expenditure was anticipated in the FY 16/17 budget.