



# 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: March 1, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition A funds to Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for implementation of the Boyle Heights Green Corridor project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition A funds to Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for implementation of the Boyle Heights Green Corridor project in an amount not to exceed \$189,300.

Background: The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District provided Proposition A funding to MRCA for improvements to the Boyle Heights Green Corridor (Project), located along Sixth Street in the densely populated Boyle Heights neighborhood. The Project, which is likely to be implemented in a series of phases, is a green infrastructure project intended to provide safe pedestrian connectivity from the surrounding neighborhoods, schools, and parks to the Los Angeles River. The planned improvements include a vista point with seating, native plant landscaping, interpretive panel, pedestrian access improvements, and stormwater quality improvements. To date, only a few minor aspects of the project have been constructed due to a shortage of planning funds, the complicated nature of street improvement permitting in Los Angeles, and difficulty in obtaining a maintenance commitment from the City of Los Angeles (City).

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) is currently working on a funded stairway project as part of the larger the Green Corridor vision, and is negotiating with the City to take on maintenance responsibilities. LANLT staff approached MRCA about partnering to install and implement the above described Green Corridor improvements as part of their existing project (concept design attached for reference). Partnering with LANLT to implement the Project will save time and therefore overall costs, as well as providing public amenities in the shortest possible timeframe. MRCA would grant funds to LANLT for construction work. There is currently no official cost estimate for the construction work since the design is still

being finalized, but it is likely to be at least the amount remaining in the subject grant. If more funding is needed to complete construction, LANLT will be responsible for securing additional funds from other sources. LANLT is committed to constructing and securing maintenance resources for the Boyle Heights Green Corridor.

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust was established in 2002 and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to grow healthier, safer, and stronger communities by creating small, accessible urban parks and gardens that help remedy the lack of green and recreational spaces in the greater Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a grant to LANLT for implementation of the Boyle Heights Green Corridor in an amount not to exceed \$189,300.

Fiscal Impact: The grant will be funded from an existing Proposition A grant, and was included in the fiscal year 16/17 budget, and in the grant budget, although as a subcontractor expense and not a grant. It is expected that LANLT will be reimbursed for their work over the course of 2-3 fiscal years. Staff time to manage the grant will be funded through the remaining planning budget of the grant. A key element of the proposed action is that it will eliminate a potential maintenance obligation. The project is likely to be eligible for maintenance funding available to non-profit organizations under the County's new Measure A bond.