



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 5, 2017

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for improvements at Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway project.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for improvements at Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway project.

Background: The Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway Project (Project) is currently under construction and will create a half-mile walking trail that bridges the gap between existing segments of Los Angeles River Greenway (between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue). The Project is being implemented by Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) and has received grant funding from the California Natural Resources Agency, CalTrans, County of Los Angeles (Proposition A), and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The Project includes installation of native plants and trees, a bioswale network that treats and improves water quality, natural seating, and interpretive elements related to the Los Angeles River.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) accepted responsibility for the CCS improvements as part of a Management and Maintenance Agreement between CCS and MRCA executed on April 7, 2014. Additionally, MRCA previously entered into a Use Agreement with the fee title holder, the County of Los Angeles Flood Control District (LACFCD), that assigns operations and maintenance responsibility of the improvements to the MRCA.

The proposed Conservancy grant would fund additional improvements which will be necessary to implement at the site once CCS is completed with their construction scope of work. The proposed improvements include, but are not limited to, community art, rock cladding on retaining wall, additional native landscaping and irrigation, mulch, slope erosion repair and control, and potential fencing. The majority of these proposed new improvements will enable MRCA crews to more easily conduct future on-going maintenance of the site: Currently little irrigation is

being installed and MRCA crews will be required to hand water the majority of landscaping across a half-mile site. Additional irrigation will remove the need to hand water; Rock cladding and community art on retaining walls would create community pride and ownership, therefore potentially preventing graffiti on those surfaces; additionally, the half-mile site is bordered by a steep minimally landscaped slope that is already eroding. CCS does not have the funding to correct these areas: The additional landscaping and erosion measures MRCA proposes to install will correct existing erosion and also solve for future erosion occurrences resulting in future cost savings. The improvements are also expected to create better user experiences and watershed benefits overall.

The improvements will be accomplished by a combination of MRCA staff through force account and subcontractors for elements such as the masonry work.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for an amount not to exceed \$800,000.

Fiscal Impact: If the Conservancy grant is awarded, funding for the improvements will be paid for by the grant and the expenditure is anticipated in the FY 17/18 budget. As mentioned above, these improvements are aimed to decrease the amount of staff time and maintenance costs currently anticipated at the site once CCS' construction is completed.