

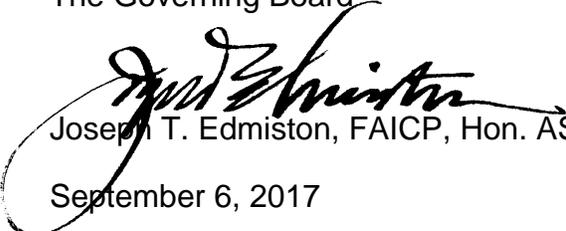


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for Escondido Canyon Parking Lot and Trail Improvements Project Planning and Design.**

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 Escondido Canyon Parking Lot and Trail Improvements Project Planning and Design in the amount of \$175,000.

Background: The Escondido Canyon Parking Lot and Trail Improvement project is proposed to add a few amenities to one of MRCA's most highly visited trails. Accessed via a public easement along the privately-owned Winding Way East, the trail through Escondido Canyon to view the seasonal waterfall is popular year-round. Visitation spikes during springtime when the falls are running but the consistent traffic takes a toll on the resources. MRCA provides a portable toilet at the parking lot adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway, but that is inadequate for some visitors during the two or more hour hike. The provision of a second portable toilet at the trailhead would help alleviate the impact to resources. Additionally, MRCA gained site control of the parking lot several months ago from Los Angeles County, and a revision to the layout could make parking more efficient. However, there are numerous aspects to the project that will require application for a coastal development permit (CDP).

A grant for project planning and design of the improvements is recommended because the CDP process requires significant investments in engineering, geotechnical studies, biological surveys, and other analysis of the impact of proposed improvements. Although the scope of improvements is something that could be handled efficiently by MRCA staff, the CDP requirement significantly complicates the project.

Consideration: The grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

is for \$175,000 of Proposition 84 funds.

Fiscal Impact: The scope of the proposed improvements is not expected to noticeably increase maintenance costs at the site. Without a separate grant for project planning and design, the work would need to be funded from the general fund and/or maintenance funding.