



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for River Rangers project planning and design, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application jointly to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and the Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for River Rangers project planning and design, City of Los Angeles in the amount of \$500,000.

Background: Since the 1940s, the County of Los Angeles and Army Corps of Engineers have managed the Los Angeles River (River) as a concrete flood channel. The communities through which the River passes have had limited contact with or responsibility for the River. In the last several decades, the River has received greater public attention and support for its restoration and availability as an environmental and recreational resource.

Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and signed by the Governor on October 3, 2017, requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Conservancy (the Conservancies) to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, as prescribed. The legislation requires the Conservancies, no later than June 30, 2018, to develop a plan for the design and implementation of the program, containing specified components and information, and to provide a copy of the completed plan to certain legislative committees by that date.

Earlier this year, the State of California appropriated Proposition 1 Urban Creeks

funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Of the ninety-eight million dollars (\$98,000,000) appropriated to the Conservancies, thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000) is for planning and implementation of projects approved jointly by both the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Staff is asking for authorization to apply for these joint funds for project planning and design of the AB 1558 River Rangers program.

Consideration: The grant application will be for up to \$250,000 from each Conservancy to total \$500,000.

Fiscal Impact: The subject grant will need to be added to the MRCA's fiscal year 2017-18 budget. There is no impact on the general fund. The AB 1558 legislation did not contain a budget appropriation to fund the required work.