



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: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for the Via Escondido Access Improvements.**

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 the Via Escondido Public Access Improvements in the amount of \$250,000.

Background: The Via Escondido Access Improvement project is proposed to add amenities to MRCA's most recent acquisition. In late 2017, MRCA acquired 2.38 acres of undeveloped land located at 6118 Via Escondido Drive. In addition to high-value ecological resources, the property also provides key trail linkages for the regionally significant Coastal Slope Trail and a proposed local connector trail. Furthermore, a previously graded and disturbed pad provides an opportunity for trail user amenities while still maintaining an appropriate buffer to the creek. Accessible parking, picnic tables, and other amenities would be provided. There is also the potential to implement minor trail improvements on the gentle slope to increase accessibility to the creek for people with varying abilities.

The subject grant would be used to plan and execute the improvements. If a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) is required, it would involve significant investments for engineering, geotechnical studies, biological surveys, and analysis of the impact of improvements, no matter how basic those improvements are.

Consideration: The grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is for \$250,000 of Proposition 84 funds.

Fiscal Impact: If awarded, the subject grant would need to be added to the fiscal year 2017-18 budget. The proposed improvements would slightly increase maintenance costs, but all elements will be designed to minimize ongoing costs.