



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for Project Planning and Improvements at the Confluence Park Phase 2 project, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for Project Planning and Improvements at the Confluence Park Phase 2 project in the amount of \$3,000,000, Los Angeles.

Background: The proposed project, Confluence Park Phase 2, will convert an approximately one-acre underutilized site owned by the City of Los Angeles (City) located adjacent to the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco into a multiple-benefit natural park. The subject property is a paved asphalt lot in the neighborhood of Cypress Park, situated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Council District represented by Councilmember Gil Cedillo. The site is now vacant but was previously used by the City's Street Trees division. It lies across San Fernando Road from Confluence Plaza and there is a crosswalk connecting the two parcels at the roundabout.

This project will be a partnership between the MRCA and the City and was identified many years ago as part of the larger vision for Confluence Park. The project may be added to the existing Donation Agreement between the MRCA and City so that, once constructed, it may be operated and maintained by the City. City staff recently contacted MRCA to discuss initiating the project now that the roundabout construction is nearing completion.

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) allocated funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek (Water Code Section 79735(a)). The next regular grant application round for these funds ends in May 2018 and staff recommends submitting an application at this time.

The Proposition 1 grant request will fund the project planning, design and engineering, and improvements at the site including native landscaping, items related to watershed protection such as stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality improvement, and typical park amenities such as seating and interpretive elements.

Aspects of the subject project that make it a good candidate for Urban Creeks funding are its location directly adjacent to the main channel of the river; the ability to create multiple benefits including recreation, water quality enhancements, native habitat, and interpretation; and the location in a disadvantaged neighborhood as defined by the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool (96-100 percentile). Furthermore, improvements can be made to the site without displacing any entrenched uses or local housing options. Finally, the site is already publicly owned so there are no acquisition costs.

Consideration: The grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be for \$3,000,000.

Fiscal Impact: If funding is not secured, the project will be postponed. If awarded, the subject grant would need to be added to the fiscal year 17/18 budget. There is no impact on the general fund. The funds would be spent over multiple fiscal years.