



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 68 funds for Franklin Canyon Park improvements, Beverly Hills.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 68 funds for Franklin Canyon Park improvements, Beverly Hills, in the amount of not to exceed \$400,000.

Background: The vast majority of MRCA's buildings and parking facilities were constructed by other entities, prior to enactment of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. In accordance with requirements of Title II of ADA, MRCA works to ensure that every program, service, and activity is accessible. With a variety of park locations, MRCA is already able to achieve compliance by relocating activities as needed. With limited maintenance funds and outdated facilities, major renovations are uncommon, and therefore, there have been few opportunities to upgrade facilities to current accessible standards. In order to be more effective in the long term, MRCA initiated steps to develop a transition plan for accessibility improvements.

In September 2017, MRCA received a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) to create an accessibility improvement plan for various MRCA owned or operated sites. The first step in the accessibility improvement plan is to survey physical and structural barriers to park facilities, programs, services and activities. The initial survey focus has been on sites that frequently host public meetings or events, and parks that accommodate a variety of public programs, such as Franklin Canyon Park.

MRCA staff recently completed an initial *draft* survey of Franklin Canyon Park, which identifies accessibility challenges at this park location. The *draft* report identifies

architectural barriers that may need either modification or complete reconstruction such as parking areas, restrooms, curb ramps, accessible entrances, door hardware and widths, path of travel, signage, etc. as needing varying levels of ADA related improvements.

The proposed grant will be used to plan, design, engineer, and implement improvements related to ADA accessibility at or near the Nature Center, lower ranch, and duck pond at Franklin Canyon Park. Work would be accomplished by a combination of MRCA staff, professional consultants, and subcontractors. These capital improvements would create new access to programs, services, and activities for a variety of park users and will contribute to a more enjoyable user experience. This effort fits with the MRCA's overall general strategy which is an incremental, but consistent, move toward greater accessibility.

Consideration: The grant application will be for up to \$400,000 of Proposition 68 funds, which will cover planning, design, and implementation of ADA related improvements at Franklin Canyon Park.

Fiscal Impact: The subject grant was not included in the fiscal year 18/19 budget and will need to be added. Without the subject grant, the improvements would not be able to move forward. Completion of the improvements could avoid potentially costly litigation in the future, and will make the MRCA's facilities more attractive for public meetings and special events. The subject grant will not result in any new maintenance obligations. A capital investment in the improvements will extend their useful life span and is expected to reduce MRCA's maintenance costs over the long term.