



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 14, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for the development of an Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for the development of a Revitalization Plan for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00.

Background: In December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy granted funds to MRCA for Upper Los Angeles River project planning and design, to carry out requirements as established by Assembly Bill 466 (AB 466), Chapter 341 of the Statutes of 2017. That legislation required that the Conservancy develop a revitalization plan (Plan) for the Upper Los Angeles River, the tributaries of the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash, Verdugo Wash, and potential additional tributaries as necessary. The plan is required to be completed by March 1, 2019. However, pending legislation would grant an extension for completion to June 30, 2020. That legislation also expands the study area to include the Arroyo Seco tributary.

In May staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant team to assist with planning, coordination, development and preparation of the Plan. The RFP was widely distributed to over 1,000 contacts in the architecture and engineering community, published through MRCA social media, and advertised via the *Los Angeles Times* and *La Opinión*. Three proposals from prospective teams were received in June. Staff wrote the RFP based on their assumptions about the upcoming process, but fully expected to modify the scope of work and process once the Working Group could convene and provide specific direction.

In August the first meeting of the Working Group was conducted. At that meeting the Chairperson appointed two members (Mayor of Burbank, Emily Gabel-Luddy and SMMC Advisory Board Member, Miguel Luna) to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to

review the proposals. The *ad hoc* committee conducted a thorough review of the three proposals and their review summary is attached. The committee recommended selection of Tetra Tech, Inc. to provide the technical assistance needed to successfully complete the Plan. The Working Group also formed two committees to focus on particular subjects, and the initial meetings of those committees are scheduled for September 25, 2018. It is desirable to have the consultant team in place to assist in planning and conducting those meetings.

Tetra Tech and their subconsultants have previously participated in various L.A. River planning projects of all scales. Their core team recently completed a similar Plan for the Lower L.A. River, and will be able to apply that experience to the Upper Los Angeles River and tributaries, as well as providing some continuity for planning along the entire river. The large group of subconsultants will adequately distribute the scope of work so that it can be accomplished in the compressed timeframe.

Tetra Tech's fee proposal, based on their interpretation of the scope described in the May RFP and assumptions about additional services required, totals \$1,126,000. The current funding for this project only allows for \$400,000 to be obligated for consultant services. Staff and Tetra Tech have begun discussions to identify an appropriate first phase of work that may not exceed \$400,000. The scope of work may also need to be modified per direction from the Working Group, who had not yet met when the RFP was drafted. Staff have also begun work to request and secure additional funds to complete the entire scope of work. Once additional funds are secured, it is expected that the Tetra Tech contract will be amended to an amount closer to their fee proposal.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, for professional services related to the planning and development of a Revitalization Plan for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries.

Fiscal Impact: The contract will be funded through an existing reimbursable grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy of Proposition 1 and 84 funds. The expense was anticipated in the fiscal year 18/19 budget. The initial phase of work is expected to be completed during fiscal year 18/19 budget. There is no impact on the general fund.