



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 14, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant augmentation request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for 3810-P01-1775, Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant augmentation request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for 3810-P01-1775, Upper Los Angeles River Project Planning and Design.

Background: In December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (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, and Verdugo Wash.

AB 466 established a Working Group within the Conservancy tasked with production of the plan. Working Group members include representatives from Los Angeles County, the Cities of Los Angeles, Burbank and Glendale, California State Parks, and several community members (see complete list at [www.upperlariver.org](http://www.upperlariver.org)). MRCA was granted funds by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for staff and expertise to assist the Conservancy to administer the Working Group and develop the revitalization plan, but is not a member of the Working Group.

The Conservancy's Working Group convened their first meeting in August 2018. The next full meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for October, with two committee meetings occurring in September. Pending legislation would add 15 months to the study's time frame and expand the study area to include the Arroyo Seco tributary. That legislation is expected to be signed by the Governor in the near future. In addition to these changes, the Working Group shall determine a few other parameters which could dramatically expand the scope of work, and consequently the cost of the Plan.

These include geographic extent of study - how far away from the waterways should the analysis be conducted; amount, complexity and scope of a community outreach effort; level of detail and number of site specific designs; whether additional tributaries, such as the Sepulveda Basin drainages, should be included; and the amount and complexity of hydrologic engineering to be conducted. Other aspects of the study scope are also yet to be determined. In order to make a good faith effort to get the work underway and meet the original legislative deadline of March 2019, MRCA issued a Request for Proposals for consulting services. The exact scope of services for the consultant team is currently being negotiated, and the outcome of this may also affect the Plan cost. The initial phase of work authorized for the consultant will be limited to the secured funds available.

The existing grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is \$700,000. Staff estimates that the full project cost, if all the variables were to come in at the highest cost, could reach \$2,000,000. If all variables were at their lowest estimate, full project cost would be closer to \$1,200,000. As a comparison, a similar process for the Lower Los Angeles river was approximately \$2.4 million, and studied a much shorter length of river, did not include any tributaries, did not extend away from the waterway into the larger watershed, and was conducted over a longer period of time.

Staff expects that the total budget augmentation need will total between \$500,000 and \$1,500,000. Depending on the speed at which the Working Group and consultant team make progress and decisions, it may be necessary to break the augmentation into multiple increments in order to keep the project moving forward. If multiple requests are made, each one would be supported by the budget and scope data available at the time of the request. Potential funding sources include Propositions 1, 84, and 68. Staff will consult with the Conservancy's grants analyst to determine the most appropriate breakdown.

Consideration: The grant augmentation request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will total within a range of \$500,000 to \$1,500,000.

Fiscal Impact: If awarded, the grant augmentation will added to the fiscal year budget. There is no expected impact on the general fund.