



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 9, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with NUVIS Landscape Architecture for design services for the Confluence Park Phase 2 project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with NUVIS Landscape Architecture for design services for the Confluence Park Phase 2 project in an amount not to exceed \$83,111, City of Los Angeles.

Background: In 2018, MRCA received a grant of Proposition 1 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$500,000 for pre-improvement planning for the Confluence Park Phase 2 project (project). The planning work is to study the feasibility and impacts of converting an approximately one-acre underutilized site owned by the City of Los Angeles (City) into a multiple-benefit natural park. The subject property, located just upstream of the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco, is a paved asphalt lot in the neighborhood of Cypress Park. 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 is a partnership between the MRCA and the City and was identified many years ago as part of the larger vision for Confluence Park. The first phase, Confluence Plaza, was completed in 2011.

In October 2018, MRCA staff distributed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for landscape design services for the project. Services requested include three preliminary schemes and design development plans for the preferred alternative scheme. Staff solicited proposals from four firms, three of whom responded to MRCA's Request for Qualifications for design services in 2017. After careful review of the four proposals, staff determined that NUVIS Landscape Architecture (NUVIS) is the best suited to perform the work needed for this project. In addition to evaluating the competence and qualifications of each firm relative to the project, the

following items were reviewed per the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures, Section 3.3, Professional Services:

- List of names and contact information for clients for which services were performed in the last five years.
- Samples of the services performed including the scope and cost.
- Disclosure of any actions taken against the professional.
- A statement of change order(s) to plans or specifications or projects for which services were provided and the reason for the change order(s).

NUVIS is a certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) as well as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE). NUVIS' wide experience in landscape design, numerous Los Angeles River related projects, their project civil engineer Watearth, and their staff office's physical close proximity to the project site, bring additional value to this project. NUVIS submitted a proposal in the amount of \$75,555 that includes Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater design, schematic design, community engagement workshops, and design development planning. Upon completion of the design development plans, additional services will be needed to complete construction and permit plans, geotechnical and engineering studies, and required environmental analyses. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a professional services contract to NUVIS Landscape Architecture in the amount not to exceed \$83,111.

Fiscal Impact: The contract will be funded through an existing reimbursable grant, and was anticipated in the fiscal year 18/19 budget. The proposed contract has no impact on the general fund. At this time the project is expected to be added to an existing agreement with the City of Los Angeles with maintenance responsibility and assigned to the City's Department of Recreation and Parks.