



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the California Natural Resources Agency for the Sepulveda Channel Greenway project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the California Natural Resources Agency for the Sepulveda Channel Greenway project, City of Los Angeles.

Background: This Urban Greening Grant Program under Assembly Bill (AB) 32, also known as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, authorizes the expenditure of Cap and Trade revenues, also known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), and allocates a sum of approximately \$20 million for urban greening projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Urban Greening Program, funded by the GGRF, continues the legacy of previous programs administered by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) but with a specific focus of achieving GHG reductions. Consistent with AB 32, the Urban Greening Program will fund projects that reduce GHGs by sequestering carbon, decreasing energy consumption and reducing vehicle miles traveled, while also transforming the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities. The "Grant Guidelines" (January 2019) require that applicants submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body.

The proposed Sepulveda Channel Greenway project (Project) will provide Pre-improvement Planning to develop a greenway along the Sepulveda Channel from Washington Avenue to the Confluence at Ballona Creek. Sepulveda Channel is a tributary of Ballona Creek, and the project is primarily located in the City of Los Angeles (City), but also extends into unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County. This project builds off of previous successes by the MRCA and partners to plan and

implement a 7-mile multiuse greenway with parks and access points along Ballona Creek.

The Project seeks to create a greenway along the Sepulveda Channel that merges seamlessly into the Ballona Creek alongside the Mar Vista Housing Authority Project area. The proposed Project footprint passes through several government agency and homeowners association territories and development of cooperative agreements will be integral. Opportunities for connectivity, public access, water quality improvements, and native landscaping are planned in the project scope. The project is a partnership between the MRCA and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC).

Consideration: Staff have not yet completed the application, but the amount requested will be within a range of \$250,000-\$750,000.

Fiscal Impact: If funding is not secured, the project will be initiated until sufficient funding is secured. If awarded, the subject grant would need to be added to the appropriate fiscal year budget. There will be an impact on the general fund because indirect costs on MRCA staff are not eligible for full reimbursement by CNRA. This impact should not be significant, as the majority of the grant is expected to be used for professional consultants.