



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 XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding and agreements with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for information sharing for the Los Angeles River Path project (formally known as LA River Bike Path Gap Closure), in relation to the River Ranger Program plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and agreements with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for information sharing for the Los Angeles River Path project (formally known as LA River Bike Path Gap Closure), in relation to the River Ranger Program plan.

Background: In December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) granted funds to MRCA for the implementation of Chapter 452, Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 1558), which mandates the development of a River Ranger Program plan in collaboration with other agencies which include the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

Metro is currently undergoing planning efforts for the Los Angeles River Path project, which will create a continuous path from Elysian Valley to the City of Maywood. Once completed, the path will provide for 32 miles of continuous trail connectivity along the Los Angeles River. There is an opportunity to coordinate Metro's planning efforts with MRCA's River Ranger Program study, which also seeks to enhance continuity along the river providing a sufficient standard of safety, maintenance, wayfinding and signage, education and interpretation of natural and cultural resources. Metro's data, covering multiple jurisdictions, depicts community priorities, existing conditions along the River, and desired future uses of the path.

Preliminary reports from Metro's extensive data indicate that the demands and needs expressed by communities for Metro's project are similar to results found

during the community engagement and outreach efforts for the River Ranger Program. Metro's outreach efforts have indicated that the most desired features of their project include nature and safety.

Metro will share this data with MRCA pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Staff have not yet obtained a draft MOU from Metro, but will have it reviewed by Staff Counsel before executing the document.

Consideration: The data would be provided at no cost to MRCA.

Fiscal Impact: There is no impact on the general fund. Staff time to coordinate and analyze the data would be funded by an existing grant for the River Ranger Program.