



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 3, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing an augmentation of the professional services contract with AHBE Landscape Architects for the Mission Canyon Park project, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an augmentation of the professional services contract with AHBE Landscape Architects for the Mission Canyon Park project, Los Angeles, in an amount not to exceed \$71,671.

Background: In 2015, MRCA contracted with AHBE Landscape Architects (AHBE) to develop a conceptual/schematic design and construction documents for the Mission Canyon Park project. AHBE is a registered Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). AHBE's scope of work included basic improvements for a restroom and visitor amenities located in the existing parking area accessed from Sepulveda Boulevard. In 2017, the contract was augmented to include design of an expanded project scope that included an additional parking lot and a fitness staircase within the property.

Pursuant to the of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), MRCA initiated the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Mission Canyon Park project and released it for public comment from August 16, 2018 to October 31, 2018. MRCA received comments related to the entry from Sepulveda Boulevard and trail connectivity to the existing Canyonback Trail. To fully address these issues for CEQA, additional design work is needed. Modifying the Sepulveda Boulevard entrance affects the parking lot layout and grading, utility connections, restroom and accessible parking locations, and all of these changes could affect the project's environmental impacts. Trail design, which was scheduled to occur later in the project process, is needed now so that impacts can be analyzed.

The Sepulveda Boulevard entry feasibility work is essentially a new design option for the project, and therefore using AHBE for this work is essential to keeping the project on schedule.

Staff recommends also augmenting the AHBE contract to add the trail design, scope, instead of soliciting proposals from other firms, due to AHBE's extensive knowledge of the project and their role as prime consultant. The trails need to be incorporated into the overall project design. Adding a different consultant to the project team for the trail design would likely slow down the project schedule and be more expensive.

Recently, AHBE announced that their firm was merging with MIG, Inc. The professional services agreement with AHBE states that MRCA must provide written consent for assignment of the contract to another entity. The proposed Governing Board resolution includes this authorization. The intent is that the same personnel from AHBE will continue working on the Mission Canyon Park project, although they will become an MIG office. MIG, Inc. currently has open an open contract with MRCA for the Pacoima Wash Greenway-El Dorado Park.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize an augmentation of the professional services contract to AHBE Landscape Architects in an amount not to exceed \$71,671. AHBE submitted a proposal in the amount of \$65,155 for the complete preparation of Sepulveda Boulevard Entry Feasibility Study and additional trail design. 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.

Fiscal Impacts: The contract will be funded through the existing grants for the project and will have no impact on the general fund. This expense was anticipated in both the fiscal year 18/19 budget and the project budget. The proposed action will reduce the amount of funding available for construction, however the project cannot proceed without this work being completed. No budget change will result from assigning the contract to MIG, Inc.