



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 5, 2019

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item VI(o): Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Third Supervisorial District Excess Funding for the Mission Canyon Park project, and (b) Adoption of a Youth Employment Plan, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Third Supervisorial District Excess Funding for the Mission Canyon Park project in the amount of \$720,000, and (b) the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The Mission Canyon Landfill is an approximately 500-acre property west of the San Diego Freeway in the Santa Monica Mountains. The landfill was operated from approximately 1959 to 1980 by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (Sanitation). From the Landfill's inception, Mission Canyon was intended to be used for park and recreation purposes after the landfill ceased operations. In 2005, the operational agreement was amended to terminate Sanitation's rights to areas of Mission Canyon no longer in use, and set aside funding to create a public park. In November 2014, Los Angeles County granted funds to MRCA in the amount of \$1,200,000 to create a public access trailhead at Mission Canyon. An additional amount of \$359,900, provided by Caltrans for mitigation of negative impacts to the Getty View Trailhead during the I-405 widening project, has also been earmarked for the project.

Mission Canyon Park's basic improvements include parking, a 2.5 mile loop trail, regional trail connection, restroom, picnic tables, native planting, interpretive elements, gates, fences, and other amenities. During the design development process, trail stairs were identified as a potential desired amenity for park attendees, and a good fit for the site's topography. Because of the known popularity of existing trail stairs in Los Angeles County, the provision of this amenity at Mission Canyon Park could help provide relief from overuse at other parks.

Youth Employment Plan: As required by Proposition A, a Youth Employment Plan must be developed in conjunction with the application for funding. Construction of Mission Canyon Park is expected to be completed by a commercial general contractor via a competitive low-bid process, who may or may not have eligible youth employees. There may be an opportunity to segment out a portion of work for a youth training organization, but at this time it is difficult to determine what that work is or a reasonable cost for it. Bidding for construction is likely to be at least 12 months away, due to the time required to finish the CEQA and permitting processes.

After consulting with Open Space District staff, MRCA staff confirmed that the only requirement is to develop and adopt a Youth Employment Plan. There is no requirement to actually employ youth if it's not feasible or appropriate to do so. MRCA has already met its agency-wide youth employment goal. Staff recommends that the adopted Youth Employment Plan for Mission Canyon Park be nil:

Tasks that may be performed by at-risk youth:	None
Estimated Cost of Youth Employment:	\$0.00
Method of Youth Employment:	None

While this proposal would mean no commitment to youth employment, past projects have been strengthened by partnerships with organizations such as the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and staff will pursue ways to incorporate youth labor on the project nevertheless.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Third Supervisorial District excess funding in an amount not to exceed \$720,000.

Fiscal Impact: If the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Proposition A grant is awarded, the funds will need to be added to the fiscal year 19-20 budget. The requested grant amount is sufficient to fund all costs associated with the design and implementation of the trail stairs.

Addition of the trail steps to the basic project is expected to increase maintenance cost of the future park, due to greater and more intensive visitor use. This cost may be offset by parking fees or other revenue opportunities at the site.