



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 4, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Feldman Consulting, Inc. for technical design development of the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Feldman Consulting, Inc. for technical design development of the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, City of Los Angeles in the amount of \$92,000.

Background: In 2017, the non-profit organization Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) initiated pre-improvement planning to develop a natural park at the Ramona Gardens public housing development in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. In 2017 and 2018, CCS conducted community engagement to develop a concept for park development through project meetings, field trips, and workshops, with input provided by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) staff.

In February 2019, the MRCA Board authorized entering into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to proceed with Schematic Design and feasibility studies for the project. The grant agreement between MRCA and SCC was executed in late May, and shortly thereafter staff retained Feldman Consulting, Inc. to provide coordination with Legacy LA, the Housing Authority, various public officials, multiple regulatory agencies, LAPD, and other stakeholders. Legacy LA has also been granted funds for the project and needed to begin their scope of work at that time.

Section 5.3 of the MRCA's Procurement Policy states that the selection of consultants to perform professional services shall be on the basis of demonstrated competence and the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required. The principal of Feldman Consulting, Inc., who also serves as the President of CCS, has been deeply involved with the project from its conception. Her intimate knowledge of the project, its stakeholders, and the critical design intentions, will be of valuable assistance as the preliminary design

phase continues. Based on this, MRCA's past experience with the consultant, and the unique demands of this project, staff recommends using Feldman Consulting, Inc. to provide coordination of technical design development for the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a professional services contract to Feldman Consulting, Inc. for coordination and technical design development for the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, in an amount not to exceed \$92,000.

Fiscal Impact: The contract will be funded through the existing State Coastal Conservancy grant for the project, and the expense was anticipated in the grant budget.. The expense is included in the fiscal year 19/20 budget. There is no impact on the general fund. Proceeding with Schematic Design and feasibility studies, including the subject contract work, does not obligate MRCA to construct or maintain any improvements, nor to proceed with the project should the concept become infeasible. A maintenance entity has not been identified.