



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 2, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with SWA Group, Inc. for Reseda Park pre-improvement planning, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with SWA Group, Inc. for Reseda Park pre-improvement planning in the amount of \$125,000.

Background: In December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) authorized a \$350,000 grant of Proposition 1 funds for pre-improvement planning for the redevelopment of Reseda Park's north section. Reseda Park, owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) in the west San Fernando Valley, is bisected by the Los Angeles River. The southern portion is heavily used and features many options for active recreation. The northern portion is passive parkland, with picnic areas, turf, mature trees, play space, and a large maintenance yard. Compared to the southern portion, the north side is underutilized and has the potential to provide a meaningful connection to the Los Angeles River while increasing sustainability through Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water. Improvements would also increase recreational opportunities for park users and update park amenities to current standards for maintenance and accessibility. A formal agreement between MRCA and RAP is under development.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for concept design was distributed in January 2018 and four firms submitted proposals. The proposal from SWA Group Inc. (SWA) was compliant with the RFP requirements and demonstrated the professional qualifications necessary for the scope of the project. MRCA worked successfully with SWA on the Milton Street Park and Green Street. Based on their qualifications, their proposed approach to this project, and MRCA's past experience with the firm, staff selected SWA to prepare three concept designs for the Reseda Park project. This work was performed satisfactorily. Staff is currently planning for a community

outreach effort to gather feedback on those concepts and move the project forward into schematic design.

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. As the firm that developed the initial concept design options for this project, SWA Group is the most appropriate firm to continue into Schematic Design. Their services will also include support with community outreach, civil engineering provided by Fuscoe Engineering, Inc, geotechnical analysis provided by Ninyo & Moore Geotech, an arborist report provided by Cy Carlberg Arborist, and cost estimating provided by Cumming.

SWA submitted a proposal in the amount of \$114,030 for these services. Staff recommends the Board authorize 10% more than the proposal to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time. Preparation of design development, construction documents, permitting, bidding, and construction administration services are not included. A proposal for these services will be solicited after this phase of design is completed, and scopes of work for those phases can be accurately determined.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a contract with SWA Group, Inc. in the amount of \$125,500.

Fiscal Impact: The proposed contract will be funded by an existing Proposition 1 grant. The expenditure was anticipated in the fiscal year 19/20 budget, and in the grant budget. The improved park will remain under the operation and management of City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. There is no impact on the general fund.