

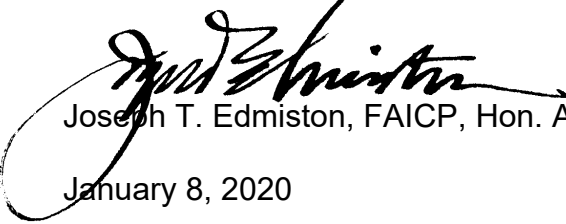


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 8, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for project planning and design for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio G2 Project, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for project planning and design for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio G2 Project in the amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Background: The Taylor Yard G2 site is a critical site for restoration of the Los Angeles River watershed, and was acquired by the City of Los Angeles (the City) in March 2017. The 42-acre site includes nearly one-mile of river frontage along the soft-bottom portion of the River. In April 2019 the MRCA acquired a permanent multipurpose easement over 12.5 acres of the G2 Parcel. This large site has the potential to treat regional stormwater flows and therefore can impact the long-term water quality of the River. Its proximity to existing open space, recreational resources, and interpretive resources, including Rio de Los Angeles State Park, Elysian Park, riparian habitat in the river itself, numerous parks along the opposite bank of the River, Los Angeles River High School, and the adjacent undeveloped G1 Parcel means that G2 is a singularly unique opportunity to create a regional multiple-benefit park, enhance habitat connectivity, provide recreation and interpretation, improve the water quality of the Los Angeles River watershed, and promote access to the Los Angeles River.

The MRCA is coordinating with the City and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), who owns the adjacent 18-acre G1 Parcel abutting MRCA's easement, to plan for an early activation river edge access project, currently called Paseo del Rio, that would stretch along both the G2 and G1 Parcels at Taylor Yard. The integrated Project is planned to be approximately 8 acres (approximately six acres on G2, and two acres on G1) to implement over one mile of contiguous riverfront public access.

The proposed improvements include trails, native habitat, water quality improvement features, green spaces, trail recreational opportunities, kayak launch and landing, gathering spaces or outdoor classrooms, restorative elements, amenities such as parking, access points, restrooms, gates, lighting, and interpretive signage, and access to a water quality improvement project on the G1 Parcel. Remedial cleanup activities will be performed prior to construction of Paseo del Rio, where needed to ensure that the public can safely utilize the improvements. The project activities for which staff proposes to apply to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for Proposition 1 funding include project planning and design, with a focus on leading the community engagement efforts for G2. The Project will be implemented in a joint partnership with the City and State Parks, who also plan to submit supplemental grant applications to the Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding, which will allow the development of a coordinated early access river edge Project.

Consideration: The MRCA's grant application will be for up to \$1,500,000.

Fiscal Impact: If awarded, the subject grant will need to be added to the MRCA's fiscal year 2019-20 budget. There is no impact on the general fund.