

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: November 8, 2010

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget augmentation and scope amendment for grant SMM-84-0879.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending authorizing a budget augmentation and scope amendment for grant SMM-84-0879.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a) and 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Since October 20, 2008, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has used the funds granted by the Conservancy to advance the planning and design of Marsh Park, located in the Los Angeles River-adjacent community of Elysian Valley in the City of Los Angeles. The work authorized in grant SMM-84-0879 included design development and construction documents associated with the park, environmental analysis, and plans for abatement of hazardous materials (if necessary). A significant portion of this work is now complete, including design development of the park plans, environmental analysis and specifications for abatement of hazardous materials of the two buildings located at the terminus of Gleneden Street, and investigations into sustainable methods for treatment of residential run-off at the site.

MRCA is now ready to proceed with construction documents, permitting, CEQA environmental assessment and documentation, abatement of hazardous materials, demolition of buildings, and construction of park improvements for approximately three acres. A shaded structure for public nature programs will be built as part of this phase. Improvements may also include aesthetic treatments for the larger building to improve the park experience and viewshed. Management and oversight of consultants will be undertaken by MRCA staff, and MRCA will continue to coordinate the project's progress with local community groups, elected officials, and other stakeholders. Sustainable methods and adaptive reuse opportunities will be evaluated for the buildings. The funding remaining in the original grant is insufficient to proceed with these tasks.

MRCA has requested \$3,000,000 and adding to the scope of work to complete the tasks. Several of these tasks are contingent upon others, and additional outside consultants may be required for a portion of this work. Project. Of the \$3,000,000, approximately \$150,000 is budgeted for

planning tasks (construction documents, permitting, CEQA environmental assessment and documentation, geotechnical investigations, etc.), \$150,000 for demolition of two buildings (including asbestos and lead paint abatement, if required), and \$2,700,000 for construction of park improvements on two vacant acres and the site of the two demolished buildings.

MRCA submitted a competitive application to the State Natural Resources Agency through the California River Parkways grant program to fund the proposed improvements, but was not awarded funds. MRCA has requested a budget augmentation and scope amendment to grant SMM-84-0879 to complete the planning and begin implementation of the next phase of the park. The work will include permitting and removal of the two smaller industrial buildings, and construction of park improvements.

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), allocated funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Chapter 5, 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources and the implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. As outlined in the MRCA's application, staff finds the proposed project consistent with Proposition 84's policy to promote the access to and enjoyment of land and water resources.

Consideration: The amount of the augmentation to MRCA would be \$3,000,000. The scope of the grant would be amended to include permitting, CEQA environmental assessment and documentation, abatement of hazardous materials (if necessary), demolition of buildings, and construction of park improvements.