

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 23, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a non-profit organization grant to the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design for the Downtown Trail System - L.A. River Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a non-profit organization grant to Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design for the Downtown Trail System - L.A. River Project.

Legislative Authority: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations pursuant to government agencies pursuant to Section 33204.2 (a) of the Public Resources Code; Funding for this grant would come from Proposition 84, Section 75050 (g) (2) of the Public Resources Code; Pursuant to Section 75005(i) "Interpretation" includes, but is not limited to, a visitor serving amenity that educates and communicates the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources in a way that increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources and that may utilize the expertise of a naturalist or other specialist skilled at educational interpretation; and Section 75003 (e) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to revitalize our communities and making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening.

Background: The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design is serving as the fiscal agent for the Los Angeles Urban Rangers (LAUR) newest public access education project, Trail Systems: Downtown L.A. This project, part of the Museum of Contemporary Arts's Engagement series, will serve thousands of people over a three month period this summer. The project will include the design of three "trails: a set of Bunker Hill trails, a Los Angeles River Trail and a trail from Bunker Hill to Skid Row. The goal of the Urban Rangers is to engage Angelenos to explore and experience downtown, including the downtown portion of the L.A. River, as well as participate in the discussions about its future.

The SMMC grant will specifically fund the matching portion for the Los Angeles River portion of the project. The Los Angeles River Trail will feature a self-guided, color blazed interpretive trail through the downtown riparian corridor, where the river itself can be very difficult to find. The project will focus on the social, ecological and geographic consequences of paving L.A.'s historic river and the potential consequences of the revitalization of the river downtown. The

Agenda item 12
March 23, 2011
Page 2

trail will start at the MOCA Geffen Contemporary, wind through the arts/warehouse district and loop back, with climbs on the 1st and 4th Street bridges.

This grant is for \$7,500 for stipends for labor and printed materials.