

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 23, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for project planning and design of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending authorization of a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for project planning and design of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek Confluence Park, City of Los Angeles, in the amount of \$250,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204(c), 33204.2, and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for planning and design of a 1.55 acre parcel located in the west San Fernando Valley at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and Caballero Creek. The project is a unique opportunity to have the MRCA and parcel owner (City of Los Angeles) work together to develop a natural park for a critical site. The project site will be studied to explore the feasibility to provide public parkland with educational opportunities, water quality improvements, flood protection and habitat restoration. The site was named as an opportunity area for riverfront open space with water quality treatment, flood attenuation, education programming and habitat restoration in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP).

The Caballero Creek and Los Angeles River Confluence Park Planning and Design project will focus on the 1.55 acre parcel to develop a design that can feasibly achieve the goals of the LARRMP stated above. The deliverables will include a series of Site Analysis reports, Concept Design renderings, Schematic Design renderings, Design Development renderings, and agreements with the City. See attached grant application for further details.

Public Resources Code Section 75050(g)(2) allocated the sum of \$36,000,000 to the Conservancy for implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. The subject study area is within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Section 79508 provides that watershed protection activities shall be consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open*

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Space Plan (Common Ground). The proposed project would provide opportunities to implement planning principles in *Common Ground* including: *Improve habitat quality, quantity and connectivity*, and *Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space*. This project is also consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives: Further Cooperation with Local Governments in the Region to Secure Open Space and Parkland and Expand Efforts to Integrate Nature into the Urban Environment.