

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 27, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for project planning and design of Pacoima Wash Greenway - El Dorado 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 Pacoima Wash Greenway - El Dorado Park, City of Los Angeles, in the amount of \$200,000.

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 1.21-acre parcel located in the east San Fernando Valley adjacent to the Pacoima Wash. The project is a unique opportunity for the MRCA and City of Los Angeles to collaborate while converting a vacant City-owned property into a natural park along the future Pacoima Wash Greenway, which will connect the Angeles National Forest to Ritchie Valens Park and Recreation Center. The completed project is expected to provide public parkland with educational opportunities, water quality improvements, flood protection, and habitat restoration along a tributary of the Los Angeles River.

The Pacoima Wash Greenway - El Dorado Park Planning and Design project will develop a design for the 1.21-acre parcel that can feasibly achieve the goals of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan stated above. This PP&D grant will progress the project design to a point where it will be competitive for other grant funding sources. 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 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.