

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 23, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the operation and management of Franklin/Ivar Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the operation and management of Franklin/Ivar Park, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33211 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Franklin/Ivar Park project is the conversion of a 0.83-acre vacant parcel at the intersection of Franklin and Ivar Avenues into a publicly-accessible natural park with an amphitheater, view areas, paths, seating, public art and gathering areas. Located in a densely built-out area of Hollywood, the site is bordered by an elevated off-ramp of interstate highway 101, the heavily-traveled Franklin and Ivar Avenues, and it is surrounded by multi-family residential buildings.

On January 28, 2008, the Conservancy authorized acquisition of the property from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and this process was completed in October 2008. Spearheaded by community members, the project is a rarely found opportunity to add recreation, open space and natural habitat in an area with a critical lack of park space.

In 2010 and 2011, stakeholders including the Hollywood Dell Civic Association (HDCA) undertook a community outreach and planning process, holding six public meetings including two workshops. During these workshops several desired park components were identified, with the highest priority being “Green space with mature trees.” In partnership with HDCA, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) applied for competitive grant funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation’s (DPR) competitive Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization program. The project was awarded \$2,000,000 of Proposition 84 funds earlier this year.

As a condition of the grant agreement with DPR, MRCA must provide a land tenure agreement that authorizes the agency to undertake the project. The proposed action would authorize a Memorandum of Understanding that meets the grant program's requirements, including a thirty-year term.