

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 3, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget augmentation for grant SMM-0836.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget augmentation for grant SMM-0836.

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

Background: On May 12, 2008, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMCC) authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds in the amount of \$1,200,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for construction and project management for the Pacoima Wash Greenway 8th Street Park Project. MRCA began construction of the 8th Street Park in July 2008 but suspended work in December 2008 pursuant to the statewide bond freeze. Construction resumed in September 2011 using MRCA's force account and specialty subcontractors.

Construction is nearly complete but the secured funding is insufficient to finish work. The work that remains includes planting of groundcovers and shrubs across over two acres, modifications to irrigation, erosion control measures for the site's drainage, and additional fencing. Vehicular accidents have damaged the artistic gates and part of the 8th Street placita, so additional work is now required to make those elements functional and ready for public use. Final preparations for opening are also needed, including mulch, exotic plant removal, installation of site furnishings, installation of signage, and removal of excavated boulders.

MRCA has requested a budget augmentation from the Conservancy to complete the planting and ready the site for public access. In addition to the subject request, MRCA applied for and received a tree planting grant from Proposition A. Those funds are restricted for use only to plant additional trees and related irrigation work.

The Office of the Attorney General reviewed the original grant on May 28, 2008, and found that the grant was proper pursuant to both Proposition 84 and the General Obligation Bond Law. The bond funds are for physical improvements to a park to allow the public to use and

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enjoy the park, and thus qualify as protection as defined in Proposition 84, as well as preservation and development, all of which are eligible actions. The park qualifies as a capital asset and the activities funded will enhance the useful life of the asset, and thus the grant is eligible under the General Obligation Bond Law.

The project is within the upper Los Angeles River watershed and implements goals identified in Chapter 5, Section 75050(g)(2) of Proposition 84. It is consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Consideration: The requested augmentation is \$400,000.