

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 2, 2014

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing Grant Program Criteria Evaluation Subcommittee to hold public workshops.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Grant Program Criteria Evaluation Subcommittee to hold one or more noticed public workshops .

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Conservancy at its November 4, 2013 meeting appointed a subcommittee to review the Conservancy's adopted Workprogram Criteria for Land Acquisition and Park Development projects, and to explore the need for any potential updates, additions, or emphasis for evaluating grant-funded projects. The subcommittee consists of Board Members David Pettit (acting as Chairperson) and Irma Muñoz, Advisory Committee Chairperson Don Robinson, and other interested members. Advisory Committee members David Ross, Wendy-Sue Rosen, and Caroline Brown have participated, and other members have also participated in at least one of the subcommittee meetings.

The Conservancy has a long history of promoting and funding urban and river projects, including Elysian Valley Gateway Park, Marsh Park, Augustus Hawkins Natural Park, Vista Hermosa Natural Park, Tujunga Wash Greenway, the new 8th Street/Pacoima Wash Natural Park, Compton Creek Natural Park, and more. The current evaluation criteria for projects does call out watershed and urban core parkland benefits in addition to criteria promoting values for wildlife, floristic diversity, trails, watershed resources, scenic resources, archaeology/historical resources, partnerships, access, and economic opportunity. But it has been nearly 14 years since the Workprogram Criteria were adopted, and the public may have new ideas to help guide the Conservancy's increasing emphasis on multi-benefit watershed projects, nature parks for restoring urban areas, and projects for adaptations to climate change and water quality/supply.

The Subcommittee seeks authorization to hold one or more noticed workshops on a Saturday or evening during the summer to solicit public input, and report back to the Conservancy.