

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 24, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to provide funding for the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over an approximately 12.5 acre portion of APN 5442-002-823, owned by the City of Los Angeles, located adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Glassell Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to provide funding for the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over an approximately 12.5 acre portion of APN 5442-002-823, owned by the City of Los Angeles, located adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Glassell Park.

Legislative Authority: Section 33202 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The proposed easement will encumber a portion of a property known as “Taylor Yard,” or, the G2 parcel. The property was previously owned by Union Pacific Railroad and was used for railroad-related operations since the 1880s, including maintenance of locomotives, refrigeration cars, rail car storage, rail car switching, and equipment storage.

Acquisition of the property for river restoration purposes has long been an objective of the City of Los Angeles (“City”) and partner agencies and many consider this 41 acre property to be the “crown jewel” in the revitalization of the LA River. Recently, it was featured prominently in the United States Army Corps of Engineers’ Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration (LARER) plan, with the City designated as the local lead agency. After a multi-year effort to acquire the property and several months of negotiations, on March 1, 2017, the City celebrated the formal transfer of title for the property from Union Pacific to the City.

With the adoption of the resolution associated with Agenda Item 10 on this agenda, the Conservancy will have authorized the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over a 12.5 acre portion of the property, as shown on the attached map. The scope of the easement will include the rights to habitat restoration, environmental remediation, improvements for public access and recreation, and open space preservation.

Approval of the proposed resolution accompanying this report will allow the Conservancy to

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enter into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to provide acquisition funding for the sale of the easement. The Conservancy's use of the easement will be subject to the terms of the WCB grant agreement pursuant to the provisions of the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), codified in Water Code Section 79572(a).

Approval of this resolution will also specifically authorize the Conservancy to assign and transfer all of its rights and obligations under the WCB grant agreement to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, which the Conservancy intends will ultimately be responsible for the day to day operations of any uses of the multipurpose easement area as described in the easement document.