

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 25, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Los Angeles River Community Access Planning, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$50,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a collaborative planning forum and research to address a new model for low-income communities' access to nature and green spaces while also addressing affordable housing needs and perceived risks of gentrification and displacement.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a detailed description. The grant request is for \$50,000 to assist a planning summit and follow up research with the Los Angeles Regional Open Space and Affordable Housing Collaborative (LA ROSA). LA ROSA is a multi-agency group representing open space conservation, affordable housing, and community-based engagement. Creating new parks and green spaces along the LA River and urban core using the funding resources from the Proposition 1 Urban Creeks appropriation will require this kind of engagement to ensure positive outcomes for access to parkland, neighborhoods, and public health. The first planned step is a late October forum entitled "Building Equitable Communities: A Housing and Parks Summit."

Scoring under the Conservancy's revised Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant Guidelines results in the project receiving 71 points (out of a possible 86; 61 minimum required), plus 2 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 20 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 93**(out of a possible 115). Staff recommends award of \$50,000 for this project.