



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

SMMC
Attachment
May 21, 2018
Agenda Item 16

May 9, 2018

Chairperson Craig Sap
c/o Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Augmentation Request
River Ranger Program Planning**

Dear Chairperson Sap and Conservancy Members:

I am pleased to present a grant augmentation request for the River Ranger Program Planning. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests an augmentation in the sum of \$500,000 from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), under the Conservancy's Urban Creek Program for additional work, to be added to the original grant request from December 2017. The MRCA's Governing Board approved submittal of this grant augmentation request on May 2, 2018.

MRCA staff have begun extensive work on the plan but all the required work will not be complete by the legislative deadline. The subject grant augmentations will cover a second phase of planning work, to be completed after June 30, 2018. The original grants are \$250,000 each, for a total of \$500,000 currently secured funding.

Please refer to the enclosed materials that describe the proposal. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (323) 221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

Cara Meyer
Deputy Executive Officer

Budget Amendment for SMMC Grant No. SMM-3810-P01-1781 River Rangers Program Planning			
Approved Grant Amount: \$ 250,000 New Request Amount: \$ 250,000 Total Requested Amount: \$ 500,000			
Budget Item	Approved Amount	Change Amount	New Total Budget
A. MRCA Staff			
various Direct Salaries, Payroll Tax, Benefits & Allocations	\$ 190,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 225,000
9998, 9999 Administrative Cost	\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 55,000
SUBTOTAL A, MRCA Staff:	\$ 230,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 280,000
B. Materials and Supplies			
TBD Non-Capital Grant Expenses	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
3165 Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
5116 Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,500)	\$ 500
7777 Equipment Allocation	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
SUBTOTAL B, Materials and Supplies:	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,500
C. Consultants and Contractors			
2051 Contract Services - Technical	\$ -	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500
5115 Land & Building Improvement - Pre-Construction	\$ 15,000	\$ (14,500)	\$ 500
5116 Land & Building Improvement - Other	\$ 2,000	\$ (1,500)	\$ 500
SUBTOTAL C, Consultants and Contractors:	\$ 17,000	\$ 196,500	\$ 213,500
Grand Total (A+B+C+D):	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000

Grant Augmentation Request – Supplemental Information

River Ranger Program Planning
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

In December 2017, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) authorized a grant of Proposition 1 funds to MRCA to complete planning work required for the implementation of implement Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), Chapter 452, Statutes of 2017. In January 2018 the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) also authorized a grant of Proposition 1 funds to MRCA for this effort. That legislation required SMMC and RMC to develop, in collaboration with other agencies, a program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The legislation specified that the plan be complete by June 30, 2018.

MRCA staff have begun extensive work on the planning and development of a River Rangers Program, but all the required work will not be complete by the legislative deadline. A draft report will be complete but there is insufficient time to also gather responses and make any necessary revisions. A second phase of planning work to be completed after June 30, 2018 is proposed. Phase two activities will include detailed development of River Ranger program elements, revisions as necessary per stakeholder input, and outlining a feasible pilot program. The compressed timeframe for phase one, combined with the extended period of management needed for phase two, combine to increase the cost of the effort. The requested grant augmentation of \$250,000 will allow the second phase of planning to be completed.

Shortly after the grant was awarded, MRCA began work on consultant contracts to complete the scope of work. In March 2018 MRCA and consultants began working on the planning, coordination, development and preparation of a Plan that would establish a River Ranger program, including development of an implementable pilot program. Monthly meetings with stakeholders have commenced and input from the general public is being recorded at community events and via an online survey.

If additional funding is not secured, the second phase of planning for the River Ranger Program will not be completed.