

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 25, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for visitor serving improvements at Franklin Canyon Park, Beverly Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for visitor serving improvements at Franklin Canyon Park, in the amount of \$350,000, Beverly Hills.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) and Section 80110(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for visitor serving improvements at Franklin Canyon Park. The improvements will improve accessibility to the park's administrative and visitor center, including the nature center, main restrooms, auditorium/meeting room, and the administrative offices. Please see the attached Proposition 68 grant application for a detailed description and analysis. The grant request is for \$350,000 to improve and upgrade the existing facility in order to create new access to programs, services, and activities for park users of all abilities and to contribute to more enjoyable user experiences. Activities funded by the grant would include pre-improvement planning, design and engineering, and implementation. Community access will be provided by a 5% allowance for the non-profit organization Community Nature Connection to provide programs at the facility.

MRCA's priority for accessibility improvements are those park facilities, such as Franklin Canyon Park, that frequently host public meetings and accommodate a wide variety of programs. Franklin Canyon Park's buildings and site design were constructed prior to enactment of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. An inventory of Franklin Canyon Park identified the specific features that require capital improvements to provide full accessibility, ranging from minor modifications to complete reconstruction. No major renovations in the park have occurred that provided funding to upgrade facilities to current accessible standards.

Scoring - Competitive Grant Program

Under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects, this grant request received sufficient scoring under values for Prioritization (18 out of 21); Category (60 out of 70); Implementation (14 out of 16); Climate Change (16 out of 16); and Additional Consideration (5 out of 25); plus 48% points for matching funds, totalling 163 points (80 to 101 minimum required).