

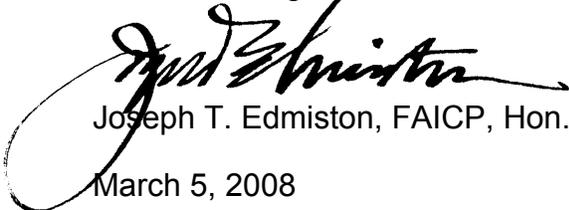


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: March 5, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Area H, for improvements to trails, trailheads, including customary facilities related thereto, and bridges for Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Area H, for improvements to trails, trailheads, including customary facilities related thereto, and bridges for Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades.

Background: On January 31, 2008, the Citizens' Oversight Committee, District No. 2, approved and recommended that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority use Assessment District funds from Area H for improvements to Temescal Gateway Park. Acquiring parcels in Acquisition Area H is difficult due to the lack of willing sellers and the high cost of land. On page 12 of the Engineer's Report under Notes to Estimate of Cost, the last item states:

The improvement costs for Acquisition Areas F and H only can include up to \$750,000 (in each such Acquisition Area) of funds for improvements to trails, trailheads, including customary facilities related thereto, and footbridges for existing open space and parklands owned or maintained by MRCA.

Staff deems the expenditure of Assessment District funds on improvements to Temescal Gateway park consistent with the criteria and requirements in the Engineer's Report. Improvements of customary facilities include restrooms, drinking fountains, and utilities repair. Temescal Gateway Park is currently deficient in providing adequate restroom facilities and accessible drinking fountains. Additionally, a water line is in dire need for repair. The attached map shows the proposed location of each facilities improvement project.

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Consideration: Up to \$750,000 of Assessment District Funds is projected to be spent on planning and implementation of all or a portion of the proposed projects.