



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 2, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Dudek for land use, environmental and California Coastal Act planning for Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Dudek for land use, environmental and California Coastal Act planning for Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00.

Background: Located in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed in the Pacific Palisades, Temescal Gateway Park is one of the most popular parks in the Santa Monica Mountains. The park encompasses 141 acres of oak and sycamore canyons, ridge-top views, and access to miles of trails in Topanga State Park, Will Rogers State Historic Park, and the 20,000-acre "Big Wild." Park amenities include easy to moderate trails, picnic tables and grassy areas, restrooms, a camp store, meeting rooms, an auditorium, and classrooms.

Temescal Gateway Park is also the home to many educational and outreach programs for children, particularly the Field Science Program. These programs are dedicated to bringing enriching, hands-on outdoor experiences to Los Angeles' under-served, urban youth. Professional naturalists lead students on a 3-day/2-night hands-on science program that aligns with the California State Science Content Standards adopted by the California State Board of Education. Many of the students who attend the program have never had this kind of outdoor adventure. Experiences like these expand students' perspectives of the world and can profoundly impact the course of their lives.

The MRCA's Interpretive Division has been increasing the educational programs at Temescal. Conference Center use has been growing every year. Parking in the canyon is at a premium. Given the ongoing expansion of the MRCA's programs, the ever increasing need for public open space, and the increasing requests for both

short term and long term uses in the canyon, MRCA staff feels that the best way to address park development and management will be to prepare a public works plan for California Coastal Commission review.

In July 2007, Dudek assisted MRCA in filing a permit waiver with the California Coastal Commission for temporary trailers in Temescal. Dudek is familiar with the park and has been able to work well with MRCA staff on numerous projects. MRCA staff recommends the continued use of this firm for the planning and studies related to the submission of the public works plan to the California Coastal Commission and the associated CEQA review. Dudek will be coordinating these various technical studies necessary. The proposal from Dudek is attached.

Consideration: The contract amendment will not exceed \$75,000. Funding for this contract would come from Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant number SMM-0760.