



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: September 2, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the use of Proposition A Funds for improvements to the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the use of Proposition A Funds in the amount of \$298,815 for improvements to the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.

Background: Currently the only areas of the River Center suitable for public meetings are the Atrium and the Los Feliz Room, both in the California Building. The Atrium can accommodate 250 seated guests, but has especially poor acoustics, subdued lighting, and cannot be fully darkened for slide presentations. The Los Feliz Room accommodates up to 50 guests; both rooms are frequently used.

The vacant second floor of the Sierra Madre Building presents an excellent opportunity to create an additional large public meeting room and small conference area. Only minimal improvements and repairs were made to the room since acquisition, including installation of an wheelchair lift, the only one at the River Center. However, in order to make these spaces suitable for public uses, improvements are necessary, including roofing, HVAC and AV systems, and finishes. Together with minor improvements to the adjacent Barbacoa Building restrooms, the proposed project would double the space available for community use and make it possible to have more than one meeting at a time.

Funding for the new Project Agreement will be transferred from two existing grants with similar or overlapping scopes of work. A new Project Agreement is not technically necessary, but was requested for record keeping purposes.