



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment of contract MRCA 124/10 with Hutchinson Grading and Excavating for Browns Canyon stream restoration grading, unincorporated Chatsworth area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a \$30,000 amendment to contract MRCA 124/10 with Hutchinson Grading and Excavating for the active Browns Canyon stream restoration grading project.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) restoration crew is conducting a large stream restoration and debris removal project on the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) owned Gopher Canyon tributary of Browns Canyon in the Santa Susana Mountains. The project site is an old disturbed sand and gravel quarry that was most recently used as a landfill for concrete rubble. The main site area is a large gravel pad sloping down to a deeply down-cut stream channel with large metal culverts that are completely full of debris.

In October 2009 the MRCA entered into a contract with Hutchinson Grading and Excavating for \$20,000 to do a combination of exploratory work and debris removal on the subject site. The results of the exploratory holes were to be used to guide future plans. Fortunately over the past two weeks the holes revealed dramatically less debris than staff expected in the subject areas.

Because the heavy machinery was already delivered to site, staff had the contractor both over-excavate areas where large metal debris needs to be cut and removed and address some major erosion problems that were undermining the paved entry road in many places. Also upland debris piles were moved to strategic locations. With the equipment in place and no rain on horizon, there is a significant, unexpected opportunity to move the project forward in an efficient manner. There

is much additional work to be done both before and after significant rainfall hits the site. The main reasons to contract for more grading are the significant equipment mobilization savings and the ability to push the project closer to the time frame specified in the agreement between Caltrans and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that funded the project. Seeding to cover disturbed areas can also be broadcast in time to ensure optimal amounts of rainfall.

The original \$20,000 is exhausted, but the contractor is willing to leave the machinery onsite to see if additional contracting authority can be authorized via the proposed Governing Board action.

Staff originally selected Hutchinson Grading and Excavating because their price sheet had the lowest cost per hour for the fully-manned and fueled excavators and bulldozers necessary to complete the work. Hutchinson Grading and Excavating has also successfully done other stream restoration work for the MRCA including last year in Elsmere Canyon and five years ago in Summit Valley - Ed Edelman Park in Topanga Canyon. They again have performed admirably in the first phase of the Gopher Canyon work. The knowledge they have gained in this first phase cannot be replaced. Hourly manned equipment is difficult to find and the rates are the lowest staff found.

An additional \$30,000 of contract authority is requested to maximize the efficiency of this major restoration project. The total contract amount would be \$50,000. The State advanced the subject funding to the MRCA from the Conservancy Fund. The total project cost is \$916,000.