



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: February 3, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for (a) Los Angeles River - Marsh Park (Phase II); (b) Compton Creek - Washington Elementary Natural Park; (c) Pacoima Wash - El Dorado Park and (d) Northeast Los Angeles - Elephant Hill Trail.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for grant funds for the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) for (a) Los Angeles River - Marsh Park (Phase II); (b) Compton Creek - Washington Elementary Natural Park; (c) Pacoima Wash - El Dorado Park and (d) Northeast Los Angeles - Elephant Hill Trail.

Background: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) authorized \$5.4 billion for the protection of the State's drinking water and water resources. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is administering the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant Program. The funding amount authorized under this grant program totals \$368 million and was made available through the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction chapter in Proposition 84. The "Grant Guidelines" published in April 2009 require that applicants submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body. Applications for the first round of funding are due March 1, 2010. MRCA staff will be submitting applications for a selection of the projects described below:

Los Angeles River - Marsh Park (Phase II): Marsh Park is located in the Los Angeles River-adjacent community of Elysian Valley in the City of Los Angeles. Currently, the 5.4-acre Marsh Park site includes approximately 41,000 square feet of industrial space, an approximately .75-acre natural park, an approximately

2-acre vacant lot and an approximately .25-acre skate park. The industrial space consists of three buildings.

In May 2006 the first phase of the park project was opened to the public. This phase of the project is less than one acre, and is located at the terminus of Marsh Street and includes native landscaping, picnic amenities, play structures that represent native wildlife near the Los Angeles River, and a water quality enhancement feature that captures and infiltrates the residential run-off of Marsh Street.

This current phase (Phase II) of Marsh Park will include development of the 2-acre vacant lot and the two smaller industrial buildings. This phase of the park improvements will include native habitat restoration, protection of water resources through treatment of on-site stormwater with a system of arroyos and detention basins, recreation amenities and picnic facilities. A shaded structure for running public nature programs will be built as part of this phase. The focus of this structure will be to interpret the natural resources of the Los Angeles River, and could also be used to host group events and community events.

Compton Creek - Washington Elementary Natural Park: The proposed project will convert a portion of a 3 acre site behind Washington Elementary School, in the City of Compton, into a public park with native riparian plantings and typical passive park amenities (such as seating and interpretive displays), directly adjacent to the Compton Creek Bike Path, which is a River Parkway. The park will also incorporate stormwater management elements and could be a demonstration project for Compton Creek. The project is a partnership between the MRCA, the Compton Unified School District (CUSD), the City of Compton (City), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), as well as Heal the Bay and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, non-profit organizations.

Pacoima Wash - El Dorado Park: The proposed project will develop a one and a quarter acre site adjacent to the Pacoima Wash (a tributary of the Los Angeles River), in the City of Los Angeles (City), into a public park. The parcel was acquired in 2009 by the City for the purpose of developing public park space. Amenities at the site will include native riparian plantings, typical passive park amenities (such as seating and interpretive displays), stormwater management elements, and will eventually be one of several parks linked together by the planned Pacoima Wash Greenway Path. The project is a partnership between the MRCA, the the City of Los Angeles (Department of Recreation and Parks), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), as well as Pacoima Beautiful. Extensive community input for the elements of this project, as well as a proposed greenway has been conducted

in conjunction with Pacoima Beautiful, a local non-profit organization, through a competitive grant awarded in 2008 by the County Department of Public Health P.L.A.C.E. Initiative.

Northeast Los Angeles - Elephant Hill Trail: This project site is relatively undisturbed and provides opportunities for significant water infiltration. The site directly contributes to a potential connection of large habitat areas serving a linkage for wildlife along the Arroyo Seco and the Los Angeles River Corridors. In addition, site conditions are conducive for native plant and animal communities. This project will create a trail and install interpretive element in the form of an educational panel that will contain information about the local watershed and areas natural resources.