

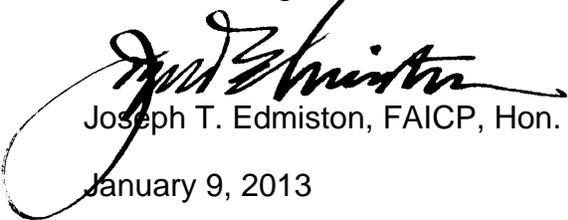


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing an agreement with the State of California for the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Executive Officer or his Designee to execute an agreement with the State of California for the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway.

Background: As part of the 2005 Federal Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration budget, \$983,928 was designated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for planning and design of the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway. On October 29, 2012 the SMMC Board authorized MRCA to act on their behalf for this project due to MRCA's experience managing projects that span multiple local jurisdictions, and because the Conservancy does not have adequate staff to manage the project. The funds were obligated through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in November 2012, and in order to proceed a Master Agreement between Caltrans and MRCA must be executed by mid-March 2013. A similar agreement was used when MRCA managed planning grants for the Arroyo Seco Parkway Scenic Byway Corridor.

The proposed 3.25 mile Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway will wind along the reclaimed and restored banks of Pacoima Wash as one component of a regional recreational watershed park. The Class I Bikeway and bicycle staging areas will be located within some of the most densely populated areas of the San Fernando Valley, along the eastern edge of the City of San Fernando and the Pacoima area of the City of Los Angeles. The bikeway will connect these communities to the Angeles National Forest and provide opportunities for experiencing the natural forest of the foothills, and is a recommended project of the City of Los Angeles Bicycle Master Plan.

In addition to linking to the Angeles National Forest, the bikeway route will take visitors to urban parklands including Eighth Street Park (under construction) and El

Dorado Park (in planning), both of which are MRCA projects. Project partners for the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway include the City of San Fernando, the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and non-profits Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Pacoima Beautiful. Staff from all of these organizations have been collaborating for several years to plan the bikeway. The bikeway was included in both the City of Los Angeles (May 2011) and County of Los Angeles (March 2012) Bike Master Plans. The City of San Fernando has secured construction funds, and the City of Los Angeles is currently identifying funding sources for construction of their portion.