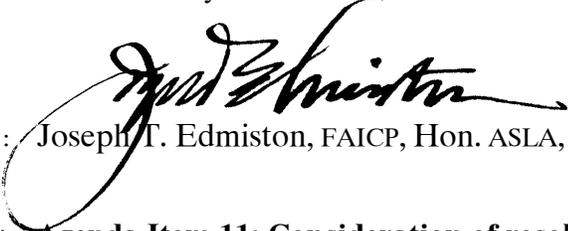


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 12, 2008

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to People for Parks for a feasibility study to identify and select a joint-use project with the Los Angeles Unified School District.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending authorization of a grant of Proposition 84 funds in the amount of \$50,000 to People for Parks for a feasibility study to identify and select a joint-use project with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code

Background: People for Parks seeks Proposition 84 grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 to study the feasibility of various elementary school sites in the Los Angeles River watershed for joint-use projects with the Los Angeles Unified School District. The projects, envisioned as Community-School Parks, would include Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality and conservation, and recreation elements. The sites will be evaluated in terms of feasibility for construction, operation, and maintenance. Potential sites have already been identified in North Hollywood, Downtown Los Angeles, and Highland Park.

The creation of Community-School Parks would benefit the Los Angeles River watershed. The projects would convert asphalt campuses to green space, and make the areas more accessible to the public during after-school hours. These projects are expected to increase recreational opportunities for the public and enhance school campuses and learning environments for youth. The Community-School Parks concept has been well received in the past, and neighborhoods in Sacramento, San Francisco and New York are joining with philanthropists to implement the concept.

The requested funds will be used to conduct feasibility studies and outreach to the public, local communities, and civic associations, as well as to teachers, parents, students and neighbors of the specific schools. People for Parks also plans to develop conceptual site design plans to communicate the park concepts. People for Parks also has support from various site councils and neighborhood councils in affected areas.