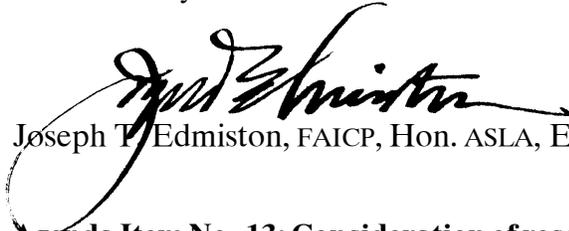


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 22, 2008

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

Subject: **Agenda Item No. 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of Compton Creek - North of the 91 Freeway and South of Greenleaf Boulevard to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram to allow the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to provide Proposition A Excess Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisitions and improvements within the said project area, Compton.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of Compton Creek - North of the 91 Freeway and South of Greenleaf Boulevard to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram to allow the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to provide Proposition A Excess Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisitions and improvements within the said project area, Compton.

Legislative Authority: Section 33208 of the Public Resources Code

Background: On May 1, 2007, the MRCA entered into a Memoranda of Understanding with the City of Compton to plan and develop park projects along Compton Creek. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been an active participant on the Compton Creek Task Force working on planning and development projects. Major projects include completing an outdoor classroom at Compton High School and securing grant funding through the State Resources Agency for development of a park at Washington Elementary.

The proposed addition to the Conservancy Workprogram would allow the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to receive Proposition A Excess Funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire and develop approximately a half dozen parcels totaling approximately eight acres along Compton Creek between Greenleaf Boulevard and the 91 Freeway.

The project would provide an opportunity to expand existing riparian habitat, provide passive recreation including continuation of an existing bikeway, stormwater quality improvements, and educational opportunities. In the project area, Compton Creek transitions from a concrete channel, devoid of wildlife, to a more naturalized creek supporting riparian wildlife including aquatic bird species. The area is a unique habitat in a developed area. The City of Compton and surrounding area lack natural parks that provide opportunities for learning about wildlife.

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Preservation and development of a park in this area would provided access to nature in a densely populated area.. The area is immediately adjacent to the Artesia Station on the Metro Blue Line providing access to those that lack automobile transportation.

The area under consideration is a portion of the greater plan to implement the Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan. This section of the Creek is a missing link between the City of Compton bikeway and the County bikeway to the south that connects to the Los Angeles River.

A requirement for the MRCA to use Proposition A Excess funds is that the subject project be on the Conservancy's Workprogram submitted annually to the Governor.