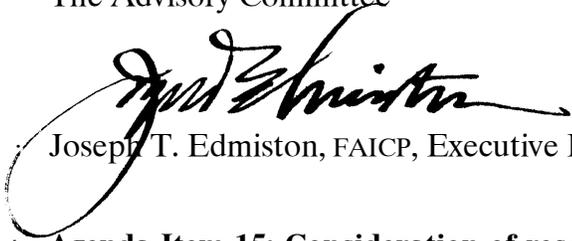


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 22, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution amending the application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Competitive grant funds for urban tree planting, and granting said funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution amending the application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Competitive grant funds for urban tree planting, and granting said funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Proposition A, the 1992 Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Act, allocated funds for "competitive grants for the planting of trees in urban areas" (Section 8(a)(3)(c)). One million dollars (\$1,000,000) of these funds were designated to the Conservancy, and the Board subsequently granted funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for sixteen separate tree planting projects. Most of these projects are now complete, and it is no longer feasible to plant additional trees at those locations. During reconciliation of the completed projects, the MRCA identified several grants that were not completely expended. The proposed action would add four sites to the tree planting program, and allocate the estimated residual funds from eight completed projects.

The sites that would be added to the tree planting program are described below, and maps of project locations are attached. All of the dollar amounts listed are estimates pending final reconciliation.

Supervisorial District 1: Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

Additional trees are needed at the River Center to replace overgrown and unhealthy specimens in the public gathering areas and around the perimeter of the grounds. Because the site was vacant for seven years before it was acquired, many of the existing trees suffered irreparable damage due to lack of irrigation and maintenance. Funds remaining from the Bosque del Rio Hondo Riverfront project (\$5,029) would be used for the River Center.

Supervisorial District 2: Compton Creek

Agenda Item 15
May 22, 2006
Page 2

Several sites along Compton Creek and the Compton Creek Bike Path are currently being evaluated for feasibility for public park use and habitat creation. Funds remaining from the Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park project (\$8,216) would be used for the Compton Creek project.

Supervisory District 3: Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration

The MRCA will begin construction of the Tujunga Wash Stream Restoration in late 2006. Grants for the project have been secured from Prop A, Prop 12, and Prop 13. Additional funding is needed due to the rapid increases in construction costs since the project was budgeted. Funds remaining from the Solstice Canyon project (\$10,000) would be used for the Tujunga Wash project.

The existing Red Rock Canyon tree planting project would be augmented with funds remaining from the Greenbriar (\$3,636), Liberty Canyon (\$2,500), San Vicente Mountain Park (\$23,374), Sepulveda Pass Trailhead (\$780), and Wilacre Park (\$4,525) tree planting projects.