

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 21, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for capital improvements at the Elysian Valley Gateway Park, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$850,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a detailed description. In 1995, the creation of the Elysian Valley Gateway Park at Knox Avenue and the Los Angeles River was literally and figuratively a major watershed event in the river revitalization effort. Acquisition and conversion of this small residential lot into a tree-shaded park along the LA River became a must-see stop for elected officials, city and county planners, and environmentalists to help them envision how the river might be made accessible and greener, and triggered subsequent projects along the river. Los Angeles County Prop A-1992 funds made the initial modest improvements possible. Since 23 years have passed, renovations for this well-used neighborhood and River Bikeway-adjacent park are needed. In addition to newer best management practices for stormwater diversion and capture and other water enhancement and native habitat plantings, the project will include additional trees, seating, interpretive elements, and very importantly, will open the park more to the river and bikeway. Community input was sought in two public workshops last year.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines for All Other Improvement Projects resulted in 91 out of 94 points (minimum 66 required); with 15 out of 18 carbon reduction points; and 15 out of 20 Additional Criteria points. Total points 121 out of 132.

Staff recommends award of this grant.