

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 18, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone Pre-Improvement Planning, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone Pre-Improvement Planning, in the amount of \$350,000, City of Los Angeles.

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

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application for Proposition 1 funding for pre-improvements planning and design for the Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone. The Sepulveda Basin provides many uses and amenities, including City of Los Angeles active recreational parks, a water treatment plant, open space habitat with trails and creeks, the River Recreation Zone, and a dam which impounds flood waters within the basin during storms. A future non-motorized bike path is being planned along the River through the Sepulveda Basin to establish connectivity along all 51 miles of the River. Since the launch of the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone (RRZ) pilot program in 2012, the public has been invited to kayak, walk and fish in a stretch of the River within Sepulveda Basin. As the RRZ has become a fixture within Sepulveda Basin, and the demand for access to these water resources has been firmly established, pre-improvement planning is recommended at this time to identify improvements that will enhance access and protect resource quality.

Capital improvements that will be studied as part of the subject pre-improvement planning work include launch points (including options for mobility-impaired users), signage, restrooms, rest areas and overlooks, various user amenities, security enhancements, restoration planting, potential water quality improvements, and connectivity to the future bike path so that visitors do not have to drive to the RRZ. Water quality within the area is negatively impacted by lack of restrooms, fishing activities, homeless encampments, and nearby outfalls which lack Best Management Practices. The presence of year-round water makes the Sepulveda Basin a unique opportunity along the main stem of the River. The pre-improvement planning will include

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options for improving the condition of local water resources.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Guidelines for Project Planning and Design resulted in the Sepulveda Basin River Recreation Zone Pre-Improvement Planning project receiving 83 points out of 86 (minimum of 61 required); plus 4 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 25 Additional Criteria points . Total points: 113 out of 115.
Staff recommends award of this grant.