

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 24, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the operations and maintenance of Franklin/Ivar Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the operations and maintenance of Franklin/Ivar Park, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), Franklin/Ivar Park (park) was converted from a vacant parcel located at the intersection of Franklin and Ivar Avenues into an approximately 0.75-acre natural park with a small amphitheater, walking paths, seating, children's play area, native landscaping, public gathering areas, and other park amenities. The park opened to the public in November 2017. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) lead the design and development of the park and provided the operations and maintenance upon completion, in accordance with an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the MRCA and Conservancy.

Conservancy staff recently met with the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to discuss the opportunity for the City to operate and maintain the park for a period of one-year during Fiscal Year 2018-19 with the possibility of RAP accepting permanent control of the property. The attached Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) stipulates each party's roles and responsibilities. The Agreement has been thoroughly reviewed by both Conservancy and RAP staff and Counsel and is ready to be executed. On July 11, 2018 RAP's Board of Commissioners authorized entering into the subject Agreement.

RAP has not received additional budget for the operations and maintenance of the park, other than funding support for security (opening and closing of the gates) from Councilmember Ryu's Office. RAP's park maintenance expenses for the 2018-19 fiscal year will be absorbed or shared among parks on the same staff maintenance route. The increased future operation and

maintenance expenses due to additional maintenance related to this park will be requested through the City's budgetary process in 2019. As such, this maintenance period would be considered a one-year "trial run" until budget is appropriated to the department and either fee-title of the park is transferred to RAP, a long-term lease agreement is executed, or this Agreement is renewed. MRCA has agreed to continue to pay for the park's utilities during the year-long trial run.

The park will continue to be open to the public seven days per week between the hours of sunrise to sunset. Through the attached Agreement, RAP will also be authorized to provide community programming when feasible and issue permits for special events and filming at the park. Over the next year, Conservancy and RAP staff will continue conversations regarding more permanent plans for the operations and management of the park.

Consideration: The agreement does not commit the Conservancy to any new financial obligations.