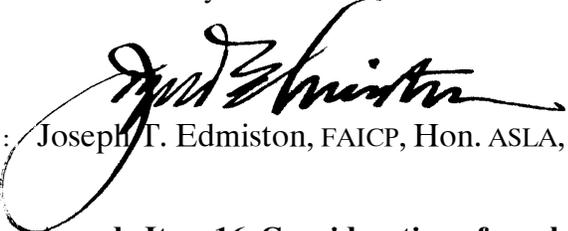


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 10, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for restoration and safety improvements at Temescal Gateway Park, 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 restoration and safety improvements at Temescal Gateway Park in the amount of \$200,000, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code, and Section 79731(h) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a description of the project. The grant request is for \$200,000 in Proposition 1 funds, to be used to plan and implement improvements to improve public safety, increase structure protection from natural disasters, and facilitate restoration at Temescal Gateway Park. Given that the weather and ignition conditions which contributed to the Woolsey Fire are likely to occur again this season, it is imperative that capital improvements targeted toward protecting and restoring the resources of Temescal Gateway Park commence immediately.

The recent Woolsey Fire provides a clear picture of how a wildfire in the Santa Monica Mountains is likely to progress and what types of built facilities are most vulnerable. Buildings in close proximity to each other in a wooded setting, such as in Temescal Gateway Park, increase the probability of fire spreading. Structures within the property that could be vulnerable to natural disasters include the classrooms, administration offices, restrooms, Elizabeth A. Cheadle Hall, staff residences, maintenance storage buildings, Stewart Hall, bungalows, cabins, dormitories, and the former pool house. Infrastructure elements that could be vulnerable include culverts, roads, various drainages, utilities, water tanks and storage, and trees within the park's forest that are undergoing stress from continued drought.

Work proposed includes removal and thinning of vulnerable vegetation, clearance of litter and debris around and on structures, clearing drainage ways and pipes, sealing of vents and building

penetrations/openings, and adding water storage. The work will be concentrated in the developed areas of the park and focused on a goal of structure protection.

Although the scope includes activities other than vegetation management, this grant was submitted in the Vegetation Management because the intent fits best within that category: *Projects to reduce hazard fuels to reduce wildfire risks and protect watersheds and promote watershed health*. Scoring under the Conservancy's revised Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for "Vegetation Management" results in the project receiving 99 points (out of a possible 104; 73 minimum required), plus 18 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 20 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 132** (out of a possible 142).

#### **Analysis—Proposition 1**

Section 79731(h) of the Water Code allocated funding to the Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects including analysis of greenhouse gas emissions avoidance of up to 980 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.

#### **Analysis—General Obligation Bond Law**

The General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of "capital assets." Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government Code Section 16727 (a)). Capital assets also includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition including costs for planning, engineering and other design work.

#### **Analysis—Consistency with Plans**

The proposed grant is consistent with all applicable plans, including the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan.

Consideration: The grant application is for \$200,000 of Proposition 1 funds.