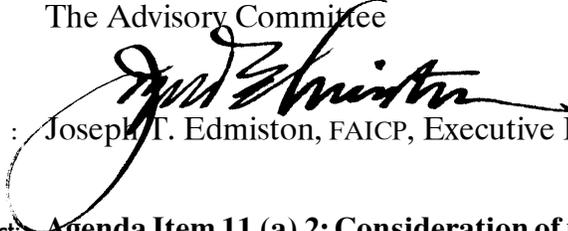


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 9, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 11 (a) 2: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for exercising additive alternates to the base bid for the Vista Hermosa Watershed Park and funding additions and upgrades to the landscaping, Los Angeles**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant in the amount of \$ 508,823 from Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Vista Hermosa Watershed Park project, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code and Section 33204 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: On August 30, 2004, the Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$3,269,700 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for construction and project management for the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project. On July 19, 2006, construction bids were obtained from three contractors. The lowest qualified bid was \$9,814,775; the highest bid was \$15 million. At that time, the project was redesigned to cut costs, and the bid was separated into fifteen parts to isolate specific costs, with the option to incorporate these items as additive alternates at a later date if funding became available.

Additional funding for the project has already been secured from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, the Los Angeles Unified School District, private donors, an SMMC Proposition 12 grant, and a City of Los Angeles Proposition K grant to the school district. Competitive funds for the soccer field have been secured by LAUSD from the Amateur Athletic Foundation, Weingart Foundation and a City of Los Angeles CDBG grant to the MRCA has been secured.

The requested funding will be combined with all of the funding sources to construct the park's sustainable design features and amenities that were deleted due to value engineering to reduce costs. These features are: green roofs which will reduce the urban heat island effect and naturally insulate and cool the park buildings as well as blend into the hillside; a watershed demonstration feature adjacent to the outdoor classroom; increased size and quantity of landscaping for the site; and provide perimeter fencing and interpretive gates. A 10% contingency has been included to accommodate potential staff and design time.