



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph J. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant for the Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon program.

Background: The Explore the Coast Grant Program of the State Coastal Conservancy was established in 2013 to encourage more people to explore and experience the state’s spectacular coast. The grants fund a wide range of programs that bring people to the coast, increase stewardship of coastal resources, and provide educational opportunities. Among other objectives, the program focuses on projects that provide access to low-income and underserved populations and enhance the public’s coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist.

The proposed Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon program will provide immersive, no-cost camping trips to MRCA’s Puerco Canyon property for groups of underserved youth and families. With the subject grant, MRCA will be able to offer not only the venue, but also all necessary camping gear, supplies, and transportation as well as interpretive naturalists to facilitate the experience of camping and enjoyment of coastal resources. Approximately 350 people will be served, with a portion of youth participating via the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) foster care system. The program will enable underserved youth and their families to explore the coast by providing the necessary resources that typically prevent these populations from accessing public lands due to economic barriers.

Consideration: The grant amount is \$50,000, approved by the State Coastal Conservancy Board at their March 2016 meeting.