



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract with Teracor Resource Management to conduct biological surveys on MRCA managed properties in the Antelope Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a sole source contract with Teracor Resource Management to conduct biological surveys on MRCA managed properties in the Antelope Valley in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) manages many properties in the Antelope Valley with mixed terrain and varying degrees of resource sensitivity. Staff has been exploring the potential for ecologically compatible renewable energy sites on these properties to create a much needed ongoing revenue stream. The subject two adjacent forty-acre parcels located east of Lake Los Angeles on the north side of Palmdale Boulevard at 230th Street were subjected to unknown but widespread vegetation disturbance prior to 1995 and have since been on a road to ecological recovery. Given the properties' past disturbance, flat terrain, distance from any protected lands, highway adjacency, and proximity to adequate transmission lines, it presents reasonable potential for an renewable energy (solar with photovoltaic panels) generation site. To understand the site's ecological sensitivity and biological constraints, a floral and faunal survey is essential.

The seasonal window for such surveys in the Mojave Desert is narrow. Survey work must be done in April even in above average rainfall years. In order to not lose a year's time in developing an early determination of whether the subject site would work for an renewable energy project, surveys must be done this month. Staff has had recent exposure to the work of the firm Teracor Resource Management and has been fully impressed on every level. The attached proposal was turned around in

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a few working days. The firm is a small, flexible, affordable size and the personnel to be conducting the work are highly respected among park and resource agency biologists.

The proposal covers four tasks that can be staged over time depending on the availability of funds and the changing needs of staff. The total proposal for all four tasks is under \$30,000. A copy is attached. The total requested amount of contract authorization is \$35,000 to cover miscellaneous expenses not covered under the proposal.