



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 5, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing of funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for projects in the Ballona Creek watershed including Ballona Wetlands Public Access Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of funds from the State Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$280,000 for projects in the Ballona Creek watershed including Ballona Wetlands Public Access Project.

Background: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) is a 600-acre area of protected land that is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County. Acquired by the State of California in 2004, the property is owned by the Department of Fish and Game and the State Lands Commission. The State Coastal Conservancy has provided funding for planning and restoring the property. The restoration plan for the entire property is currently being developed to restore and enhance the natural resources of the site and to create compatible public access opportunities. Since the acquisition of the property the planning process to develop the restoration plan has been on-going and has studied many aspects of the restoration of the property.

While the overall restoration planning is on-going, the State Coastal Conservancy has awarded the MRCA \$280,000 in funding to accomplish minor public safety improvements that will complement long-term planning efforts and an on-going public process in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game, State Coastal Conservancy and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. The Department of Fish and Game has granted the MRCA a BWER access letter to complete the work.

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