



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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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 IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of funds from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation for Ballona Wetlands Improvements.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of funds from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation for Ballona Wetlands Improvements in the amount of \$20,000.

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 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation has awarded the MRCA \$20,000 in funding to provide services to protect natural resources. The MRCA Ranger and Planning Divisions will work collaboratively with the Department of Fish and Game to manage and operate minor public safety improvements. The Department of Fish and Game has granted the MRCA a BWER access letter to complete the work.