



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 14, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing an augmentation of contract SMM-127-10 for interpretive program services with the Compton Jr. Posse.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an augmentation of contract SMM-127-10 for interpretive program services with the Compton Jr. Posse.

Background: The partnership between the MRCA and the Compton Jr. Posse (CJP) for interpretive programming continues to be a successful mechanism for providing innovative natural and cultural history programs, leadership programs and job readiness to young members of CJP. In July of 2011, five graduates from the first Junior Ranger class became sworn in as mounted volunteer junior rangers. Four of those students have been brought on as part time employees with the MRCA as "Outdoor Leaders" and will be assisting new staff from the Division of Interpretation with youth programs and on Transit to Trails programs. A new class of 16 high school students from the CJP has begun the 10 month Junior Ranger program. They will graduate in the summer of 2012. In addition to Junior Rangers, this contract makes possible recruitment, community outreach, family and youth single event programming and consultation with MRCA staff on program development.

The Compton Jr. Posse is a 501(c)3 organization in Compton that has developed a successful model of teaching leadership and teamwork through horses and equestrian skills. The organizations motto is "Keeping kids on horses and off the Streets". Working with at-risk youth from the Compton area, participants learn western dressage and recreational equestrian skills and compete in local and national equestrian events.

Funding for this contract would be from the Proposition 84 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for interpretation of land air and water resources of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor

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serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth. The contract would for 24 months and not exceed \$100,000.