MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant program for MRCA Interpretive Programs.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant program for MRCA Interpretive Programs.

Background: The MRCA Division of Interpretation development and implementation of Junior Ranger Programs for Mountain, Wetland, and River Units are found to be well received in underserved communities. This grant will allow the Division of Interpretation to extend the Jr Ranger program to include an Ocean Unit. The Ocean Unit meets the goals of both the Coastal Commission and the MRCA in regard to promoting the health of the state’s marine coastal eco-systems. These interpretive programs will focus on reaching communities that are currently poorly served in terms of marine and coastal education.

The WHALE TAIL® Grants Program distributes funds from sales of the WHALE TAIL® License Plate. The grants support programs that teach California’s children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state’s marine and coastal resources.

The grant request will not exceed $10,000.