MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program for MRCA Interpretive Programs.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program for MRCA Interpretive Programs.

Background: The MRCA Division of Interpretation’s 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 match program development funds as well as fund continuing sessions of the Junior Ranger Ocean Unit for the first year.

These MRCA interpretive programs will promote meaningful watershed education experiences and focus on reaching communities that are currently poorly served in terms of watershed education and are located in Ventura County.

The NOAA B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment.

The grant request will be a minimum of $30,000 and will not exceed $50,000.
A local public entity of the State of California exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District pursuant to Section 6500 et seq. of the Government Code.