



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the California Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant for MRCA Transit to Trails programs.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing application to the California Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant for Transit to Trails programs.

Background: The MRCA Transit to Trails program offers bus transportation and interpretive programs to under-served and urban audiences. The California Coastal Conservancy’s “Explore the Coast” program, which is partially funded by the state license plate funds through the “Whale Tail” grant program, supports activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and/or enhance a visitor’s experience. The proposed grant will seek funds for both transportation services and interpretive naturalists to facilitate the experience of urban visitors to the coast. We believe that Transit to Trails meets all 7 of the program’s priorities, which include programs that:

- *Enhance a visitors’ coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist;
- *Increase the number of people visiting the coast;
- *Provide a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural or historic learning experience;
- *Serve a large number of people within the context of the population density of the surrounding area;
- *Serve lower-income or other under served populations;
- *Maximize barrier-free access for persons with disabilities; and/or
- *Increase stewardship of coastal resources.

The MRCA can apply for up to \$50,000 for these programs.