



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: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has a long history of providing relevant and meaningful interpretation and education programs that not only enhance the visitor experience but promote stewardship and protection of the resources.

This application requests funding from Proposition 84 for the continuation of a variety of interpretive programs including public hikes, campfire programs, youth camping, Junior Rangers and the Symbiosis newsletter. These programs have proven to be very popular and serve thousands of constituents from both watersheds, in both watersheds, every year.

This application is for the same scope of service approved by both the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board and the Attorney General. The amount requested for the Santa Monica Bay Watershed is less than in prior years, which will result in a reduction of programs, though staff is seeking other funding alternatives.

The grant amounts requested are \$330,000 for the Los Angeles River Watershed is and for \$70,000 the Santa Monica Bay Watershed.