



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 2, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing MRCA staff participation in the 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia.**

Staff Recommendation: The Board authorize MRCA staff participation in the 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia.

### Background :

The World Parks Congress 2014 is the decade's most important forum to identify and communicate inspiring solutions involving protected areas for some of the world's most pressing global challenges. The theme of this year's event, to be held November 12 - 19, is *Parks, People, Planet – Inspiring Solutions*.

Held every ten years, the World Parks Congress is an important event for introducing new ideas into the global conservation community and shaping protected area policy. It will bring together around 3,000 people from over 160 countries, to reflect on proven approaches for protected area governance and management, to inspire people from all sectors to build a much deeper connection to nature, and to shape and guide the implementation of innovative solutions for people and protected areas for the next decade and beyond.

Participation by MRCA staff and Community Partners in such events promotes awareness, understanding and support for MRCA efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains and with urban community partners. Further, MRCA will be contributing to the presentation of InterEnvironment on cross-promotion of protected areas and public institutions, and about the value of urban protected areas generally.

Consideration: Staff recommends a not to exceed budget of \$20,000 for participation by MRCA staff and community partners from unrestricted funds. As with previous events of this nature, MRCA staff will be responsible for the costs of their own airfare,

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as will community partners who will raise matching funds for their participation. As the bulk of these expenses will occur in the 2014-15 fiscal year, unrestricted funds will be identified as part of that budget process, however the early registration deadline is June so approval of attendance is necessary now. This also gives our partners adequate time to raise their matching funds. Adoption of this resolution authorizes international travel and allows MRCA staff to attend the conference without taking vacation time.