MEMORANDUM

TO:       The Governing Board

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

DATE:     May 7, 2014

SUBJECT:  Agenda Item VI(m): Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Pepo Weed Abatement, Inc. to perform brush clearance.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with Pepo Weed Abatement, Inc. to perform brush clearance in the amount not to exceed $84,678.00.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority performs required fire-fuels reduction and fire clearance work on over 1500 acres of open space lands per year. This brush clearance work is necessary to protect homes, businesses, and other public and private structures from wildfire. The requested contract will be used, along with other resources, to perform this important fire prevention work during the 2014 fire clearance season.

Bids for the 2014 fire-fuels reduction and clearance work were obtained through a publicly advertised bid process. The contract with Pepo Weed Abatement will cover the following properties: Westridge Canyon Park, Sepulveda Pass Open Space, Wilacre Park, and Trebeck Open Space. Pepo Weed Abatement, Inc. is based in Palmdale and holds a current D64 Weed Abatement license with the California Contractors State License Board.

Consideration: Pepo Weed Abatement, Inc. submitted a bid for $76,980. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional services that are not known at this time, for a total authorization amount of $84,678. Funding for the contract will be drawn from Benefit Assessment District funds.