



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 6, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution accepting funds from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation for maintenance work at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting funds from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation for maintenance work at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve in the amount of \$15,000.

Background: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) is a 600-acre area of protected land that is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County. Acquired by the State of California in 2004, the property is owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the State Lands Commission. A restoration plan for the entire property is currently being developed by the State Coastal Conservancy to restore and enhance the natural resources of the site and to create compatible public access opportunities. The planning process to develop the restoration plan is on-going.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation has granted \$15,000 to MRCA to provide one-time maintenance services to protect the site's existing natural resources. MRCA staff will work at the direction of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct three site clean-ups and make repairs to the site's perimeter fencing. The work will be performed by MRCA's Fire Division crews. The clean-up work will consist of trash and debris removal. This scope of work is authorized in DFW's access letter to MRCA and California Coastal Commission Permit No. 5-06-132.