



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the California Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant for a Puerco Canyon pilot camping program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing application to the California Coastal Conservancy for an “Explore the Coast” grant for a Puerco Canyon pilot camping program.

Background: 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. The Puerco Canyon pilot camping program will provide a unique camping experience for under served populations, specifically foster youth, in an area along the coast that has limited access to public overnight accommodations. We believe that the pilot camping program meets all 7 of the program’s priorities, which include programs that:

- *Provides a coastal experience for lower-income or other underserved populations;
- *Increase the number of people visiting the coast;
- *Improves barrier-free access for persons with disabilities;
- *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;
- *Increase stewardship of coastal resources
- *Enhances the public’s coastal experience in a way that does not currently exist.

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