



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(i): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Resources Legacy Fund for consulting services on the Parks Resiliency Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Resources Legacy Fund for consulting services on the Parks Resiliency Project in the amount of \$335,000.

Background: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), the California State Park and Recreation Commission, and the Parks Forward Commission have recognized the need to improve access to California State Parks so that all Californians may experience the exceptional natural, historic and cultural resources found in the State Park system. According to the Parks Forward Commission's final recommendations, it is critical for the long-term success of the State Park system that all Californians have safe and easy access to parks. Increased park visitation will contribute to the system's long-term sustainability by building a stronger constituency of park users in support of parks, creating a more diverse community of park users ready to lead and work in parks.

Accordingly, CDPR has approached MRCA to play a critical consulting and coordinating role on a 2-year demonstration project to implement an innovative outreach and engagement model. This initiative will also engage California park, transportation, and public health leaders in a multi-sector strategic planning process. The project will be piloted at two state park units and include scalable curriculum, training and outreach models, and synergistic partnerships that can be replicated throughout the State Park system. MRCA's Division of Interpretation has unique experience and a successful track record on this type of programming. A grant from the non-profit Resources Legacy Fund in the amount of \$335,000 over two years will cover staff time and overhead, contracts with community partners, development of an evaluation system, development of curriculum and other costs as determined in the initial planning process.