



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy from the Conservancy Fund for the transition and mobilization costs necessary for the continuance of education and interpretation programs and services via the Mountains Education Program, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy from the Conservancy Fund for the transition and mobilization costs necessary for the continuance of education and interpretation programs and services via the Mountains Education Program, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Background: In 1989, the nonprofit Mountains Education Program (MEP) was founded to provide education and interpretive services to under served populations and provide access to Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) parkland. Over time the size and scope of MEP programming grew and in 1997 the programs and staff were absorbed as a new division of MRCA, Education and Interpretation Division. Given current funding constraints, it is proposed that the MRCA education and interpretive programs transition back to MEP to increase funding opportunities and maximize existing resources.

The transition of the Education and Interpretation Division of the MRCA to MEP will require investment and mobilization from MEP to ensure continuation of programs and for protection of MRCA and SMMC investment in programs. For example, it is critical that the nonprofit has a general liability policy to protect its employees, itself, the agencies on whose property the programs take place, and the administrative infrastructure necessary to take on necessary staffing.

In order to meet the needs of MRCA for seamless continuance of SMMC funded programs this summer. MRCA programs have been designed to support the strategic objectives of SMMC. The \$50,000 grant and MEP will assist MRCA in

fulfilling two SMMC strategic objectives:

- Expand Efforts to Integrate Nature into the Urban Environment
- Maximize funding opportunities through partnerships; and
- Expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities
- Expand local government, school district, and non profit ventures to provide increased educational and access opportunities.
- Increase resource stewardship and educational/interpretive capabilities within the Conservancy Zone.