



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XVII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a reciprocal services agreement between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Mountains Education Program for materials and services to support the continuation of education and interpretation programing.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a reciprocal services agreement between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Mountains Education Program for materials and services to support the continuation of education and interpretation programing.

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

MEP, in exchange for in-kind services as detailed in the attached reciprocal services agreement, will continue to provide programs that focus on increasing access to parkland to underserved populations, youth development, job training for urban youth of color, transportation to parks from disadvantaged communities, and other programs and services for which the MRCA has been nationally recognized. These services represent a core component of the MRCA's mission to provide comprehensive education and interpretation for the public. This proposal will allow the MRCA to continue to provide these valuable services through it partnership with MEP in a cost effective and consistent manner.

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The reciprocal services agreement provides for a seamless continuation of services by providing office space and other services and amenities up to and as long as the nonprofit serve MRCA goals and retain the level of training and other requirements of a public agency as detailed in the agreement.