



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: August 3, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX(m): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of grant from Windward Fund for participation in the development of the Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Framework project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a \$20,000 grant from the Windward Fund for participation in the development of the Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Framework project.

Background: The Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Framework (RCF) is part of a state-wide effort to pilot a new flexible conservation planning tool, to identify high priority conservation areas within a region that can be proactively protected, restored, and managed. These RCF's will identify wildlife, fisheries, and habitat conservation needs including conservation actions needed to address climate change and protect wildlife corridors on a regional scale.

The Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) is the probable primary government agency to hold and direct future mitigation funds for the proposed RCF. The DMCA offers both an ideal jurisdictional boundary and local board membership through the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District. The DMCA is staffed by a combination of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District staff. Until a program of the magnitude of the RCF becomes integrated into the DMCA's finances, the DMCA will depend entirely on external staff support.

This grant will fund the MRCA's staff involvement in developing and completing the RCF on behalf of, and in concert with the DMCA. The MRCA would in part provide planning, ecological, GIS, and administrative services towards this end. The MRCA would work with the existing consulting team. As the facilitating government entity, the DMCA also needs staffing to convene key public and planning committee meetings.

Agenda Item IX(m)
August 3, 2016
Page 2

The Grant may be used only for the following charitable, scientific, literary, religious or educational purposes: to fund the Organization's participation in the development of the Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Framework project.

The Foundation grants the Organization \$20,000 for the period July 12, 2016 to March 30, 2017 to be paid in one lump sum within 30 days of the executed agreement.