



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 7, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(h) : Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Senna Tree Company for tree planting at King Gillette Ranch.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with Senna Tree Company for tree planting at King Gillette Ranch in an amount not to exceed \$34,650.

Background: In 2012 MRCA began implementing a long-term management strategy to convert the property's entrance allée from Eucalyptus trees to native California Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*). The initial work was performed in conjunction with construction of the Visitor Center for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Many of the allée's Eucalyptus are nearing the end of their 80-100 year useful life span. As they age, Eucalyptus become even more prone to unexpectedly drop large branches or codominant stems, both during good weather as well as extreme wind and storm events. Due to a particularly heavy storm season and several large trees in decline or reaching the end of their lives, many trees were lost at King Gillette Ranch during the 2016-17 winter season.

In 2015, MRCA received a donation of nine (9) large boxed California Sycamore trees. The boxed trees have remained under staff care at King Gillette Ranch until an appropriate planting location became available. Staff have identified planting locations for these nine (9) specimen trees to fill gaps in the entrance allée. In February MRCA staff issued a public Request for Bids for the relocation and planting of the large specimen trees and three contractors submitted bids.

Section 3.2(c) of the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures states that all construction and improvement contracts in excess of \$25,000 must be approved by the Governing Board. Staff reviewed the bids, and found Senna Tree Company to be the lowest responsive, responsible bidder in accordance with Public Contract Code section 20815 *et seq.* The full list of bids and Senna Tree Company's bid form are attached.

Consideration: Staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize a contract with Senna Tree Company in an amount not to exceed \$34,650. Senna Tree Company submitted a bid for \$31,500. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for the contract will come existing maintenance funding that can only be used at King Gillette Ranch. An existing grant for capital improvements at King Gillette Ranch is another funding option if needed. Staff time to coordinate the work will be paid from the same funds and is already anticipated in the adopted fiscal year 2016-17 budget. The annual maintenance cost for the property will rise slightly due to adding irrigation for the newly planted trees. This will be offset by a reduced amount of work required by the failing Eucalyptus trees. Once the allée is fully replanted with a consistent, mature tree species, the road may be more attractive for filming, with a positive impact on the general fund as a result.