



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 IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Environmental License Plate Funds for the Naturalist Explorer Program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Environmental License Plate Funds for the Naturalist Explorer Program.

Background: The Naturalist Explorer Program is a twelve week leadership program for high school students that results in young people from disadvantaged communities having the skills and knowledge to be hired as part-time interpretive naturalists in many of the programs developed by the MRCA and now operated by the Community Nature Connection. The program is designed to operate in conjunction with a community based organization as a partner.

A grant of \$22,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund would facilitate staffing for three Naturalist Explorer programs in 2018. Community Nature Connection will use matching funds for transportation and other non eligible ELPF costs.