




# 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:** October 4, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution to support AB 1558.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution to support AB 1558.

Background: Assembly Bill 1558 by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia authorizes the creation of a Los Angeles River Ranger Program which, would provide a network of river rangers along the river. This bill would require the conservancies to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, as prescribed, with the tasks of overseeing and engaging residents, state agencies, local municipalities, and stakeholders to enhance the recreational use and safety of the Los Angeles River.

Moreover, AB 1558 addresses longstanding and prevailing maintenance issues associated with having multiple jurisdictions sharing responsibility for law enforcement of the L.A. River. Currently, we, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) provide rangers to assist with maintenance for portions of the L.A. River within a limited jurisdiction. AB 1558 will ensure there are no laps in maintenance and safety of the 51 miles that comprise the L.A. River while lessening the burden of local municipalities who lack the funding or staffing to conduct patrols on a regular basis. AB 1558 is an imperative component of the overall revitalization of the L.A. River which will ensure citizens' safety and accessibility to our public lands and urban rivers.

This legislation offers a unique opportunity for added continuity along the river, while expanding our current ranger program and patrol on the L.A. River. AB 1558 has passed both houses in the State Legislature and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature for approval.

Agenda Item IX  
October 4, 2017  
Page 2

Consideration: Support for AB 1558 to receive the Governor's approval and become effective into law.

Fiscal Impact: Likely in the low- to mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars (Environmental License Plate Fund or other special fund) for the conservancies to develop the required plan and implement the program.