



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 1, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(i): Consideration of resolution approving contract with Sage Communications for improved internet access at Franklin Canyon Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving contract with Sage Communications for improved internet access at Franklin Canyon Park for a period of 36 months.

Background: Franklin Canyon Park, one of the agency's oldest and most popular parks, is located in a deep and windy canyon north of Mulholland Drive. The administrative offices serve as the headquarters for MRCA Ranger Services. For this reason, reliable communications services are critical. However, because of the remote location of the park, and the aging infrastructure of the telephone lines provided by AT&T, internet access has historically been slow and unreliable.

Over the years, we have investigated multiple internet options, and used several internet providers. The current internet provider, DSL Extreme, provides T-1 internet service (over the old copper telephone wires) at a cost of \$749 per month. The speed is only 1.5MB.

Recently, new technology became available to provide internet access to Franklin Canyon via microwave. The new provider is able to install a dedicated service with a clear line of sight to the MRCA administrative offices from a tower near the fire station on Mulholland Drive. At \$988 per month, the new Internet service will be much more reliable and will provide speeds over 50 times faster, at 50 Mbps.