



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(s): Consideration of resolution assigning operations and funding of the Pilot camping program at Puerco Canyon to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution assigning operations and funding of the pilot camping program at Puerco Canyon to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement.

Background: On May 4th, 2016 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) approved a reciprocal service agreement with Community Nature Connection (CNC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This agreement, among other items, allows for the continuation of valuable education and interpretive services to disadvantaged communities previously provided by the MRCA Division of Interpretation. At the same meeting, the MRCA Governing Board adopt a resolution authorizing assignment of MRCA funding received for education and interpretation programs and services to CNC for continuation of funded programming.

One such program is the pilot camping program at Puerco Canyon. Funded with a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Coastal Camping at Puerco Canyon (CCPC) program offers no-cost camping trips to Cameron Nature Preserve for underserved populations across Los Angeles County, including youth from the County's extensive foster care system. These immersive camping excursions overlooking the Southern California coastline will cover all of the needs to ensure an enriching experience for the participants including camping gear, supplies, transportation, food and interpretive naturalists to facilitate a full camping experience that would otherwise be inaccessible to these underserved populations. The total funding from the Coastal Conservancy is \$42,500.