



# 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: June 6, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Community Nature Connection for programs in support of the reciprocal services agreement.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to Community Nature Connection for programs in support of the reciprocal services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

Background: On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) approved a reciprocal services agreement with Community Nature Connection (CNC), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. This arrangement provides for mutual support between the two organizations. Both organizations share a goal of increasing access to the outdoors for diverse communities. A primary benefit to MRCA is the provision of valuable education and interpretive services by CNC that are tailored to MRCA's mission, often on short notice. MRCA no longer has staff to provide these programs in-house, but the demand for these services continues to increase.

Research demonstrates that interpretation is an effective management tool leading to the protection of resources. Educating visitors and inspiring the emotional and intellectual connections between the interest of the visitor and the meanings inherent in the resources leads to greater understanding and commitment to protection of those resources. People care for what they value, and value comes from the "interpretive continuum" that starts with awareness and understanding and ends with stewardship.

The subject grant would provide funding for the 2018-19 fiscal year for CNC programs and services. The activities supported by this grant include a Youth Leadership series, special one-time program request from the MRCA to CNC, advocacy for community access programs and public access issues, and the demonstration of pilot programs. The success of these activities will contribute

Agenda Item VI(c)  
June 6, 2018  
Page 2

toward consideration for future funding.

Consideration: The grant to Community Nature Connection would be in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

Fiscal Impact: The grant would be funded out of the general fund and is included in the 2018-19 budget.