



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 9, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing accepting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 grant award and entering into an agreement with CDFW to implement the Robin's Nest Fire Recovery and Habitat Restoration Project in Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 grant award and entering into an agreement with CDFW to implement the Robin's Nest Fire Recovery and Habitat Restoration Project in Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: In 2018, the Mountains Restoration and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the 51.4-acre Robin's Nest property in Soledad Canyon. The property contains an abandoned RV park with deteriorating structures built upon artificial fill within the floodplain of the Santa Clara River. The Briggs Fire (2010) and Sand Fire (2016) combined to burn the majority of the property and left behind fire-damaged debris that threatens water quality and habitat of the Santa Clara River.

MRCA's Robin's Nest Fire Recovery and Habitat Restoration Project (Project) is a 3-acre shovel-ready implementation project located on the eastern portion of the property designed to promote the recovery of unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo chub, Santa Ana sucker, least Bell's vireo, southwestern flycatcher, arroyo toad, coast horned lizard and other native species onsite and nearby.

The proposed action would authorize MRCA to execute a grant agreement with CDFW in order to remove fire-damaged debris, construction waste and imported fill, and improve onsite riparian woodland, riparian scrub, and upland buffer habitat value through non-native plant eradication and establishment of native plant species.

The Project Area is also visible from both the Pacific Crest Trail and the Scenic Drive (Antelope Valley) designated Soledad Canyon Road. Successful completion of the Project will improve regional scenic resources adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. Long-term maintenance by MRCA staff will ensure that non-natives do not reestablish and that planted natives become firmly established.

A component of the grant application and grant agreement is to utilize the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) where possible. CCC staff has indicated the CCC can assist with this Project, and future staff consultation will determine the timing and extent of CCC participation.

Consideration: The amount of the grant would be \$298,150 and would cover Project activities, staff time, and expenses. The funding source for this grant is the CDFW's Proposition 1 Watershed and Delta Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program.

Fiscal Impact: The Project is expected to result in minimal additional maintenance costs to the MRCA as the grant allocates \$10,500 for long-term maintenance through the term of the grant period anticipated to end March 15, 2022. Successful completion of the Project will result in three acres of land requiring little to no additional maintenance.