



# 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 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant augmentation to Community Nature Connection for expanded outreach and advocacy focused on workforce development.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant augmentation to Community Nature Connection for expanded outreach and advocacy focused on workforce development.

Background: Community Nature Connection (CNC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to promote access to public lands for under served communities. As part of its strategy CNC engages in robust community engagement and education with community based organization regarding issues, opportunities and programs that support robust public access and sustainable healthy communities. This includes promoting successful programs developed and operated by the MRCA.

Workforce development for young people from all part of Los Angeles have proven a successful mechanism to benefit communities no matter the location of the project. In addition, workforce development programs increase the knowledge, skills and diversity of our own staffs and ensure that park funding reaches beyond the geographic location of a specific park project. Examples include the MRCA's wildland fire training program, swift water and ranger training program and Community Nature Connection's Naturalist Explorer and River Ambassador programs. This augmentation of \$3,000 will fund an outreach and engagement strategy, policy development and advocacy on workforce development as part of natural resources funding proposals as well as seeking out other funding sources for workforce development programs.

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Fiscal Impact: Funded from unrestricted revenue. The additional augmentation of would be for \$3,000 per month and will be authorized to be renewed annually until such time as the MRCA cancels or amends the terms.