



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 5, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(m): Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services' Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for development fo a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an application to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services' Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in an amount not to exceed \$93,750.

Background: The State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) manages a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) that funds preparation of hazard mitigation projects, including some planning activities. The HMGP is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proportionally as part of any Presidential Disaster Declaration in California. CalOES is now accepting applications for projects that will be funded pursuant to the 2018 wildfire declaration, which included the Woolsey Fire in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) are developed to lessen the vulnerability to disasters and reduce risk from natural hazards. An HMP serves as a guide for decision-makers as they commit resources to minimize the effects of natural hazards, and is intended to integrate with existing planning mechanisms such as building and zoning regulations, long-range planning mechanisms, and environmental planning. To date, the MRCA has not developed an HMP for Agency-owned properties. Without an approved HMP, MRCA is not eligible for the hazard mitigation project funding that becomes available from time to time.

The local hazard mitigation planning process includes conducting a thorough hazard vulnerability analysis, creating disaster mitigation priorities, and developing subsequent mitigation strategies and projects. The proposed HMP will identify and compile information on potential hazards and ways to mitigate future damage such

as flood control measures, seismic retrofitting, soil stabilization and erosion control, defensible space, hazardous fuels reduction, ignitions-resistant construction, and other actions. The planning process will also collect input from local stakeholders and adjacent land management agencies. Staff have identified a few local consultants that are capable of conducting the planning process and drafting the plan to meet FEMA's specifications. Once the draft HMP is developed, adopted by the Governing Board, and approved by FEMA, MRCA will have the ability to apply for project specific hazard mitigation funding on MRCA-owned properties.

Consideration: The proposed action would approve a grant application to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$93,750. This amount may be reduced after staff obtains consultant cost proposals as preparation for the grant application.

Fiscal Impact: If funding is not secured, the project will be postponed until funding is available. If awarded, the subject grant would need to be added to the fiscal year 19/20 budget. The grant requires a 25% match of \$31,250 for a total maximum project cost of \$125,000. Funding for the match has not yet been specifically identified, but will likely be a combination of General Fund, project planning and design grants, and Woolsey Fire recovery funds. The funds would be spent over one or two fiscal years.