



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 06, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Wilshire Boulevard Temple for reconstruction of youth camps destroyed by the Woolsey Fire, County of Ventura.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to the Wilshire Boulevard Temple for reconstruction of youth camps destroyed by the Woolsey Fire, County of Ventura, in the amount of \$12,250,000, contingent upon execution of a grant between MRCA and the California Natural Resources Agency for that amount.

Background: The Woolsey Fire in 2018 destroyed the Wilshire Boulevard Camps in the Santa Monica Mountains (Camp Hess Kramer and Gindling Hilltop Camp). The State allocated funds for the rebuild of camps destroyed in the Woolsey and Tubbs Fires as part of the 2020 California State Budget. The Budget Committee determined the funding allocated for each organization. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) requested that MRCA assist with properly distributing the funds and ensuring compliance with CNRA terms. A grant agreement between CNRA and MRCA for the Wilshire Boulevard Temple (WBT) rebuilding project is currently under review, and is expected to be executed shortly. The grant agreement with CNRA will explicitly state that Wilshire Boulevard Temple is responsible for carrying out the project.

MRCA staff visited the camp location in October 2019 to review the extent of the damage, and have subsequently been working with WBT staff to develop the scope of work, budget, and timeline for implementation. Rebuilding plans are currently at a conceptual level, and the final plan will be dependent on a variety of factors including cost, infrastructure feasibility, fundraising, permitting requirements, and environmental impacts. The full rebuild cost is estimated to be at least \$52 million. The subject grant funds will be used for planning, engineering, and CEQA studies. See attached application for project details. Wilshire Boulevard Temple will be responsible for implementing the work and providing documentation required by

CNRA. MRCA will not be responsible for providing any labor, materials, supplies, equipment, or supervision required to complete the Work.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize MRCA to award a grant in the amount of \$12,250,000 to Wilshire Boulevard Temple for reconstruction of their youth camps, contingent upon execution of the grant between CNRA and MRCA for that amount.

Fiscal Impact: The full cost of the grant to Wilshire Boulevard Temple will be covered by the funds from CNRA, including MRCA's grant administration costs. MRCA will request a 90% advancement of funds from CNRA to reduce or eliminate any impact on the agency's cash flow. There is no anticipated impact on the general fund.