



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: October 7, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution assigning operations and funding of William O. Douglass Outdoor Classroom programs to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution assigning operations and funding of William O. Douglass Outdoor Classroom programs to Community Nature Connection per the reciprocal services agreement.

Background: On May 4th, 2016 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) approved a reciprocal service agreement with Community Nature Connection (CNC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This agreement, allows for the continuation of valuable education and interpretive services previously provided by the MRCA Division of Interpretation. At the same meeting, the MRCA Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing assignment of MRCA funding received for education and interpretive programs and services to CNC for continuation of funded programming.

Background: Funded by the National Park Service, the purpose of the operations for the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom (WODOC) is to provide education and public programming that encourage visitors to use park lands in a non-consumptive manner and help facilitate resource and visitor management of park lands.

Specifically, educational programs for Title I school groups are provided as well as interpretive programs for the public and training for volunteers. Community Nature Connection also provides the operations of the public facility, known as the Sooky Goldman Nature Center by keeping regular, open hours for the public. Coordination is provided by Community Nature Connection staff whose office location is within the Sooky Goldman Nature Center. The total funding from the National Park Service is \$248,000.