


## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** February 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VI(k): Consideration of resolution authorizing a letter of support to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to approve the Tataviam Land Conservancy to hold conservation easements and/or manage and steward mitigation lands.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a letter of support to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to approve the Tataviam Land Conservancy to hold conservation easements and/or manage and steward mitigation lands.

Background: On September 25, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Statement of Administrative Policy regarding Native American Ancestral Lands that reaffirmed Executive Order N-15-19 which acknowledges and apologizes on behalf of the State for historical "violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of tribal communities" and encourages every State agency, department, board, and commission to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of, and access to, natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) operates in areas that coincide with historical tribal territories recognized by the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission. Partnering with California tribal organizations on land management and stewardship is consistent with the State imperatives to return ancestral lands and seek opportunities to support tribal co-management and access.

Currently, the Tataviam Land Conservancy (TLC) of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians is seeking California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) approval to hold conservation easements and/or manage and steward mitigation lands. When CDFW issue permits for a project, the project applicant may be required to transfer an interest in real property to CDFW or to another entity in order to mitigate the impact that the project will have on fish and wildlife resources. That

interest in real property may involve a transfer of fee title, the granting of a conservation easement, or both.

The TLC's accreditation by CDFW presents a unique opportunity to advance justice and equity for California Native peoples. Tribes and tribal organizations, like TLC, are critical partners in the protection of natural and cultural resources. The TLC's ongoing work with landowners, government agencies, and other partners will enhance protection of California natural resources and educate all Californians about the significance of traditional land management and conservation.

MRCA is already a CDFW-approved entity qualified to hold conservation easements and/or manage and steward mitigation lands. MRCA staff have had positive discussions with TLC staff regarding potential opportunities for support and collaboration and believe a letter to CDFW in support of TLC's application will lead to future cooperation and collaboration supporting the TLC's mission, the MRCA's mission, and State policies including the "30 by 30" mandate to conserve 30-percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030.