



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

February 3, 2021

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

### **Tataviam Land Conservancy Application to Hold Conservation Easements and/or Manage and Steward Mitigation Lands**

Dear Application Review Committee:

The Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) is pleased to support the Tataviam Land Conservancy's (TLC) Application to Hold Conservation Easements and/or Manage and Steward Mitigation Lands. MRCA is confident that approval of the TLC's application will result in a productive relationship with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to responsibly manage natural resources within Fernandefio Tataviam tribal territory.

The MRCA is dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, wildlife habitat, watershed lands, and trails in both wilderness and urban settings, and to ensuring public access to public parkland. The MRCA works in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other local government partners to acquire parkland, participate in vital planning processes, and complete major park improvement projects. The agency provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, and education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. MRCA is also one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

The TLC's accreditation 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. As outlined by Governor Newsom in the September 25, 2020, Statement of Administrative Policy regarding Native American Ancestral Lands, partnering with California tribal organizations on land management and stewardship is consistent with State imperatives to return ancestral lands and seek opportunities to support tribal co-management and access.

MRCA supports the TLC's mission to protect lands within the traditional territory of the Fernandefio Tataviam people through protective land management strategies and education of tribal youth, tribal people, and the general public. The TLC's ongoing work with landowners, government agencies, and other partners can only enhance protection of California natural resources and educate all Californians about the significance of traditional land management and conservation.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 3, 2021

Page 2

MRCA further recognizes that Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 signed on October 10, 2020, directs governmental partners, California Native American tribes, experts, business and community leaders, and other stakeholders to protect and restore the State's biodiversity. In support of this effort, the State intends to conserve at least 30-percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. MRCA believes entities like TLC are integral to meet the challenges to immediately combat the climate and biodiversity crisis.

We encourage CDFW to support this organization's efforts to protect and manage natural lands located within its ancestral territories. Should you have additional questions, please contact Paul Edelman, Chief of Natural Resources and Planning, at (310) 589-3200, ext.128, by email at [edelman@smmc.ca.gov](mailto:edelman@smmc.ca.gov) or at the above letterhead address.

Sincerely,

George Lange  
Chairperson