



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Student Conservation Association for implementation of a conservation intern program.**

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize a cooperative agreement with the Student Conservation Association for implementation of a conservation intern program.

Background: The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to more than 3,000 people each year. SCA is focused on developing conservation and community leaders while getting important work done on the land. Founded in 1957 to restore and protect America's public lands and preserve them for future generations, SCA remains committed to this goal today. Across the country many local, state and national parks are utilizing SCA interns to fill valuable staffing needs.

SCA interns are over 18 and highly committed to community service and public lands. Interpretation, visitor services and environmental education is a priority area for SCA and they have placed SCA workers at State and National Parks around the country in this capacity. Under the proposed agreement, the SCA will recruit, screen and place conservation interns for periods of six weeks to 12 months dependent on the needs of the MRCA. They will also provide round-trip transportation to and from the project site. MRCA will provide training, supervision and housing if available,

The costs of an SCA intern for 12 weeks is \$4,000, about a third of an equivalent full-time employee. During the summer quarter we will look for 4 interns, the rest of the year 2 interns per quarter, for an annual cost not to exceed \$40,000. These interns will be funded out of an approved source appropriate to their job assignment.

For more information about SCA go to www.thesca.org