



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: January 7, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution adopting an agency policy on environmental justice.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution adopting an agency policy on environmental justice.

Background: The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as:

...the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Environmental Justice is defined by California statute as:

...the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of all environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

According the National Park Service (NPS) website, current laws and policies require that the following conditions be achieved regarding environmental justice:

Desired Condition: Incorporate environmental justice into NPS mission by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities. (Source: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)

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The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has a track record of its programs and projects showing a strong commitment to these goals. See attached draft agency policy on environmental justice. The MRCA would adopt this environmental justice policy statement effective immediately.