



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 5, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Dudek and Associates, Inc. for land use, environmental and California Coastal Act planning at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of the contract with Dudek and Associates, Inc. for land use, environmental and California Coastal Act planning at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated Los Angeles County in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Background: One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, 588-acre King Gillette Ranch is situated in the heart of the Malibu Creek Watershed (Santa Monica Bay watershed), by the confluence of five major tributaries, and adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park. This scenic parkland at the lower end of the Las Virgenes Valley is a haven for larger mammals of the Santa Monica Mountains. At the same time, it offers a rare unspoiled view of California's rich archaeological, cultural, and historic resources, including a Chumash settlement, and nationally significant structures designed for razor magnate King C. Gillette in the 1920's by Wallace Neff, architect of California's Golden Age. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) manages the park in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area unit of the National Park Service, and California State Parks.

Under the existing contract and previous amendments, Dudek has been working with MRCA staff and the King Gillette Steering Committee on long range planning for the property. Staff recommends further augmentation of the contract with Dudek to continue refining the Design Concept Plan and preparing the documentation necessary for environmental review. Dudek will continue to coordinate the subconsultants preparing special studies necessary for these environmental documents. The planning process has been extended to include more specific detail related to the proposed Visitor Center on the property. Waiting to incorporate

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conceptual plans of the Visitor Center will make for a more complete and streamlined environmental review process. Dudek will facilitate the project's processing requirements consistent with the applicable environmental policies of the California Coastal Act. The proposal from Dudek is attached.

Consideration: The contract amendment will not exceed \$50,000. Funding for this contract would come from task agreement with the National Park Service for King Gillette Planning.