

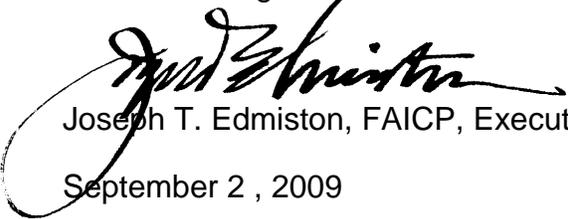


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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: September 2, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII : Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Compton Jr. Posse for interpretative program services including but not limited to development and implementation of a Junior Mounted Unit and presentations at park events.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with Compton Jr. Posse for interpretative program services including but not limited to development of a Junior Mounted Unit and presentations at park events.

Background: An important goal of MRCA interpretive programs is to introduce all aspects of the natural and cultural history of the Santa Monica Mountains to program participants from under served areas of the region who have not had access to those resources or experiences. Horses and ranching are an important part of the history and culture of the mountains, yet until now we have not had an equestrian element to our interpretive programming.

The Compton Jr. Posse is a 501(c) 3 organization in Compton that has developed a successful model of teaching leadership and teamwork through horses and equestrian skills. The organization's motto is "keeping kids on horses and off the streets." Working with at-risk youth from the Compton area, participants learn western, dressage and recreational equestrian skills and compete in local and national equestrian events. Staff has visited the program and is impressed with the philosophy of the organization and its effective and professional approach. It is staff recommendation that the MRCA contracts with the Compton Junior Posse to develop and implement a series of programs in our parks and with youth participants in our junior ranger and community programs, as well as a "Junior Mounted Assistance Unit" that would mirror the successful volunteer program that monitors our backcountry trails, and provides interpretation to park visitors.

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Funding for this contract would come from the Proposition 84 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for interpretation of land air and water resources of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth. The contract would be for 24 months and not exceed \$100,000.