



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 20, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 50 funds to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water and wildlife resources at the Ballona Wetlands.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 50 funds to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water and wildlife resources at the Ballona Wetlands.

Background: On April 27, 2006 the Coastal Conservancy will be considering a recommendation from its staff that \$100,000 be disbursed to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to implement interim stewardship activities at the Ballona Wetlands. This contract for ranger service will enable MRCA rangers to enforce code violations on the state property, including illegal camping, dumping and illegal trails, and will fund approximately 16 hours a week of ranger time for a two year period.

The MRCA staff is recommending that this Coastal Conservancy contract be augmented to incorporate a community outreach and interpretive program, which is part of the successful formula of the MRCA ranger program. Tailored to the specifics of the site, this programming will include ranger reports at community meetings, junior ranger and youth activities, interpretive programs, restoration programs, and interpretive signage. This augmentation will enable the ranger program to spend the entirety of the Coastal Conservancy contract on law enforcement activities without compromising the variety of services and activities that make a ranger program successful.

The application submitted to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will include a \$158,000 a year for two years and focuses on two project areas, promoting safe public access and providing outdoor experiences and conservation education of children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas. To maximize

effectiveness a small grants program will be established to support and expand the efforts of non profit organizations which currently provide programming at Ballona. The MRCA will focus on new programs or areas of the state property on which no programs exist.

The proposed two year budget is as follows, with language in our application requesting flexibility to move the budget amounts between tasks if necessary.

Budget over two years -

MRCA Ranger Program -

Public Access and Conservation education	150,000
Program Materials development and design	36,000
Printed materials	10,000
Signage	45,000
Non profit grants	50,000
Project oversight	25,000
Total	316,000

This grant is contingent upon approval by the Attorney General.