



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 12, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(c): Consideration of resolution approving the application for Nature Education Facility Program funds (Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center and William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for Nature Education Facility Program funds (Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center and William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom project.

Background: The Nature Education Facility Program is a competitive grant program administered by the State Department of Parks and Recreation's Office of Grants and Local Services. The program will fund projects for development of nature education facilities, buildings, structures and exhibit galleries that present collections to inspire and educate the public and for marine wildlife conservation research equipment and facilities. Funding for this \$93 million grant program was made available through the Parks and Nature Education Facilities chapter in Proposition 84, Public Resources Code Division 43, Chap. 8, §75063 (b).

Eligible projects include nature education facilities, buildings, structures and exhibit galleries that present collections to inspire and educate the public and marine wildlife conservation research equipment and facilities. The funds were appropriated in the 2009/10 Budget Act and made available for the program as of July 1, 2009. There will only be one round of funding awards for this program, and the application deadline is July 1, 2010.

MRCA staff intend to submit an application for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center and William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom project, located at Franklin Canyon Park. The exact scope of work for the application is currently under development by staff, but at a minimum will include replacement of the interpretive displays within the

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Nature Center, and a rehabilitation of the Outdoor Classroom. Other improvements under consideration include upgrades to restrooms, installation of sustainable technology, and new outdoor interpretive elements.