



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the installation of minor site amenities for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the installation of minor site amenities for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve project in an amount not to exceed \$33,690.

Background: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) is a 600-acre area of protected land that is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County. Acquired by the State of California in 2004, the property is owned by the Department of Fish and Game and the State Lands Commission. The Natural Resources Agency and State Coastal Conservancy have provided funding to MRCA for improvements to public access opportunities along Ballona Creek, adjacent to the BWER.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) has submitted a grant application to install minor site amenities, including benches, interpretive panels, bicycle parking and an artistic fence and gate, in Area A of the BWER. Project partners, including the funding agencies, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and Department of Fish and Game, have had input on the locations and choice of the amenities. LACC has prior experience and qualifications that have proven that their service is satisfactory and economical for MRCA purposes. LACC has worked with the MRCA in the Santa Monica Bay watershed to maintain MRCA pocket parks and gateways along the Ballona Creek, while also training and employing at-risk youth in green construction trades.

Consideration: The grant application from Los Angeles Conservation Corps is for \$30,627. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than this amount to allow for contingencies, for a not to exceed total of \$33,690. The grant will be funded through a combination of existing grants.