



# 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, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: June 6, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(I): Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association for collaboration and community outreach on an MRCA pilot interpretive program along the Los Angeles River for the communities of North East Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association for collaboration and community outreach on an MRCA pilot interpretive program along the Los Angeles River for the communities of North East Los Angeles.

Background: The MRCA received an anonymous donation for the development and implementation of interpretive programs focusing on the Los Angeles River and its watershed for children living in the communities of North East Los Angeles. This sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association (AYA) of \$32,800 would fund efforts of both AYA and the City Project for assistance with community outreach and collaboration on the development and implementation of the program beyond its pilot stage.

The program, which includes a junior ranger program, family trips to the mountains, overnight camping and monthly campfires along the river, has already served over 500 children. This success is due to a partnership with Anahuak and the City Project. Staff believes that this program will serve as a replicable model for other agencies and community groups to diversify access to and support for beaches, mountains, parks, rivers, and open space.

AYA is uniquely sited for this contract. Serving over 1,800 youth and their families from the communities of Glassel Park and Cypress Park, AYA Programs provides recreation opportunities, academic support, and leadership skills in a variety of well

Agenda Item V(I)  
June 6, 2007  
Page 2

established and organized programs. AYA members reflect the cultural diversity of their neighborhoods. Within three miles of Taylor Yard, 55% of the population is Hispanic, 23% live in poverty, and 20% have no access to a car. Lack of money, transportation and experience prevent Anahuak members from trips to the beaches and mountains in the absence of this partnership with the SMMC.