



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 12, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(b): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 84 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay watersheds, including those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property or natural resources and those actions necessary to allow continued use and enjoyment of property and natural resources, and entering into the grant agreement.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 84 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay watersheds, and entering into the grant agreement.

Background:The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Park Ranger program is patterned after the historic "Park Guardian" model. As such, MRCA Rangers are capable of accomplishing several specific programmatic goals and objectives which are identified within Proposition 84. MRCA Park Rangers are Peace Officers, Wildland firefighters and Interpreters. This provides the foundation for MRCA Park Rangers to preserve, protect, restore and interpret the resources protected under the proposition. The MRCA Ranger program cannot provide our historic high level of service given our current funding restrictions. Acceptance of the grant will provide additional funding for the MRCA Ranger program.

Park Rangers will provide the interpretation services which are outlined within the Proposition, including providing information directly to the public; keeping current information in park kiosks and displays; and providing interpretive activities related to fire prevention, resource protection, and public safety in agency parklands.

Park Rangers/firefighters will provide both specialized fire prevention interpretation and public information, patrol, and staffing of specialized equipment during watershed/resource restoration projects, prescription/controlled burns, and suppression efforts.

Park Rangers are tasked with the prevention, detection and prosecution of resource related crimes. These crimes include any activity which causes degradation of water quality, watershed value and resource damage, such as dumping, illegal collecting, or vandalism.