



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 5, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Background: With recent concerns about youth detachment from outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise and increased health risks, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism adopted the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR) for the purpose of recommending a fundamental list of experiences that every child in California would benefit from experiencing, before entering high school. It reads as follows:

Every child should have the opportunity to:

1. Discover California's Past
2. Splash in the water
3. Play in a safe place
4. Camp under the stars
5. Explore nature
6. Learn to swim
7. Play on a team
8. Follow a trail
9. Catch a fish
10. Celebrate their heritage

Numerous studies document that children who do these things are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self-image, and lead more fulfilled lives.

The objective of the bill of rights that every child in California, by the completion of their 14th year, have the opportunity to experience each of the activities listed within the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. On July 6, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a Proclamation recognizing the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR).

The MRCA offers many programs that provide children the opportunities listed in the Bill of Rights.