



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 5, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract for services and memorandum of understanding between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Las Virgenes Unified School District for outdoor education camp at King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract for services between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) outdoor education camp at King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas.

Background: The acquisition of King Gillette Ranch provides the MRCA with the opportunity to expand its residential outdoor education and environmental science programs, as developed at Temescal Gateway Park. While joint agency long term planning for the site is not complete, education programs have been identified as a top priority for all the agency partners.

In 2007 Las Virgenes Unified School District, the district local to the park, lost the site it has traditionally used for its outdoor education program when Cottontail Ranch was sold to a private owner. Outdoor education camp is a key part of the local fifth grade curriculum and includes students participating in a 5 -day, 4 - night residential experience in the mountains. After viewing the MRCA program at Temescal Gateway Park and reviewing the MRCA curriculum, Las Virgenes would like to contract with the MRCA for use of the King Gillette Ranch site as a new home for their outdoor education program, as well as contracting with the MRCA to develop specific curriculum and staff the camp.

The contract between the LVUSD and MRCA will cover all expenses related to staffing the camp, including naturalist educators, housekeeping and dining services. Further, it will facilitate the development of a site specific program at King Gillette Ranch, as well as the hiring and training of camp staff, that will then allow the MRCA to offer camp services to Los Angeles Unified and other regional under served youth.