MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 3, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XX: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) applying to the California Department of Conservation's Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program, (b) entering into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation, and (c) accepting Department of Conservation's Proposition 68 funds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing applying to the Department of Conservation's Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program, entering into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation, and accepting Department of Conservation's Proposition 68 funds.

Background: The California Department of Conservation has made available California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act (Proposition 68) funds through the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program (Program). The Program is designed to support local and regional governments and planning organizations include natural and working lands, specifically agricultural lands, as integral elements to optimize greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.

Staff are currently reviewing the Project Solicitation Notice to pursue project funding towards adopting a conservation easement purchasing program and/or developing an agency TerraCount to model GHG reduction strategies.

TerraCount was developed, in part, by The Nature Conservancy to inventory available carbon stocks and land-based GHG emissions, create a baseline reference scenario, assess GHG reductions from various land-management activities, and prepare reports using a state-standard platform.

Grant applications are due July 31, 2019 and require Governing Board authorization to accompany the application. Grant applications may include TerraCount as a standalone project or in conjunction with another project type.