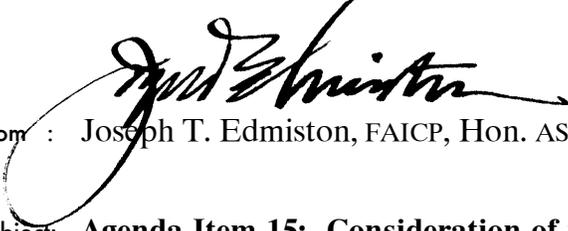


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: November 8, 2010

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget augmentation of grant SMM-0753 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget augmentation of grant SMM-0753 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget augmentation of grant SMM-0753 from Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth. Staff is requesting a two year augmentation of \$875,000. This authorization would continue to fund the MRCA Division of Interpretation's programs eligible for Proposition 84 funds per the scope of work approved by the Attorney General and at the same funding level.

Interpretation, as defined in Proposition 84, includes but is not limited to, "a visitor serving amenity that educates and communicates the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources in a way that increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources and that may utilize the expertise of a naturalist or other specialist skilled at educational interpretation." (Public Resources Code Section 75005(i)) The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has a long history of providing relevant and meaningful interpretation and education programs that not only enhance the visitor experience but promote stewardship and protection of the resources. Such programs include full moon hikes, thematic nature walks, park specific interpretative programs for the participants in the transit to trails program, weekly campfire programs at 4 location during the summer and a variety of special educational events.

In addition to the programs and materials developed for the general public, specific ranger interpretive programs will focus on programs which serve disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. This includes programs at Vista Hermosa Park and along the Los Angeles River, as well as programs for disadvantaged youth from both watersheds. A "Severely disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income less than 60%

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of the statewide average. (Public Resources Code Section 75005(g) An important part of this grant is interpretive programming at Vista Hermosa Park and MRCA parks along the Los Angeles River as well as junior ranger programs programs for participants at Vista Hermosa, members of the Compton Junior Posse and youth living near the Los Angeles River.