



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for habitat and site restoration of the Robins Nest property, Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for habitat and site restoration of the Robins Nest property, Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the 51-acre Robins Nest former RV park on the Santa Clara River this year. The property contains the extensive infrastructure of an abandoned recreational facility with over 100 RV campsites, a home, a pool and pool house, and assorted other small facilities. It also contains perhaps the most significant section of year-round natural flow on the entire river. The site has remarkable potential for both public recreation and habitat restoration. The Pacific Crest Trail abuts the upstream property boundary. It is a rare property with an extant bridge over the river to reach many flat acres of land between the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and the river proper. Fortunately the MRCA was recently awarded a restoration grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to focus on a subset of the upper portion of the river. In addition the Audubon Society is considering a grant to MRCA for restoration of a lower reach of the river on the property. Staff needs funding to further clean up the property, fix wells to be able to water restored vegetation, and define and development a first phase of public use areas that do not conflict with restoration activities. The amount of \$225,000 should enable such work to allow public access and set the stage for future restoration grant applications.

