

**DATE:** September 28, 2015

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 13: Consideration of a resolution authorizing an interagency agreement with the California Conservation Corps (RMC15502) and management agreement with the Watershed Conservation Authority (RMC15504).

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**PROGRAM AREA:** River/Tributary

**PROJECT TYPE:** Planning/Implementation

**JURISDICTION:** Territory Wide

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Luz Quinnell

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC adopt a resolution authorizing an interagency agreement (RMC15502) with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and management agreement (RMC15504) with the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) for services at the Duck Farm, River Wilderness Park, Walnut Creek, Citrus Heights and Parque dos Rios. The interagency agreement shall be for \$15,000 for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Additionally, an agreement for \$20,000 will be entered into with the WCA for weed management, contractor services and coordination and oversight management of the CCC tasks.

**BACKGROUND:** The interagency agreement will provide for the services of the California Conservation Corps crew and a working supervisor for work at WCA-owned properties, including River Wilderness Park, the Duck Farm, Walnut Creek, Citrus Heights and Parque Dos Rios. In addition to on-going support throughout the year, the CCC's provide annual brush clearance and trail work as required by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

State agencies, such as the RMC and CCC's, are allowed and encouraged to enter into interagency agreements for services as appropriate and feasible. In the case of the CCC's, the interagency agreement with the RMC provides for cost effective critical services, while providing training in employable skills for at-risk youth in the State of California. Under the agreement, the CCC's provide a designated supervisor and minimum crew of 3-5 crew members, with larger crews (10-15 members) available for annual brush clearing. The crew is trained and works in conformance with all regulatory requirements for injury and illness prevention.

The CCC is the oldest modern day corps program in the nation and is the model for corps programs worldwide. More than 120,000 young men and women have participated in the CCC. Over 3,000 young adults are hired each year, ranging from ages 18 to 25. At the present time, the CCC is about 74% men, 26% women, the average length of stay is about nine months. Statewide crews tackle more than 900 projects annually.

The CCC also takes great pride in the educational achievements of their members, including awarding of high school diplomas, GEDs, and California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Math and Science Completions. The CCC crew members cost under this agreement is approximately \$18 per hour, including tools and insurance. An indemnification between the agencies is on file.

These agreements are consistent with the terms of the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) joint powers agreement under which the RMC provides an annual contribution of up to \$50,000 in funding and/or services. The RMC has provided similar annual contributions, via interagency agreements, since FY 2010-11 and has approved WCA fiscal budgets since that time that demonstrate the WCA's need for the services provided through these agreements.

The contribution to the WCA in the amount of \$20,000 will allow for \$10,000 to be utilized for weed abatement/contractor services in addition to the utilization of the CCC's and the remaining \$10,000 to be utilized as project management and oversight of the WCA's property weed abatement plan. The WCA conducts weed abatement as required by County of Los Angeles Fire Department on all of its properties with the Duck Farm properties requiring the agency's most aggressive annual weed maintenance plan to halt the continual growth of weeds. Services that the WCA contracts for include the application of herbicide treatments, when necessary, flail mowing, tractor mowing, discing, and blading. While brush clearance and trail maintenance is provided by the work of the CCC's, the remaining services require the use of a contractor that provides weed abatement services and a weed management plan as well as understands the industry standards for the work being requested. The following are sample weed abatement plans for two of the WCA's properties:

Duck Farm (59+ acres): The undeveloped portions of the property require annual and periodic weed control/abatement via flail mower and may include application of herbicides/pre-emergent to discourage future weed growth. The developed portions of the property require a fall mowing regime and the possibility of a late winter/spring mowing regime if necessary to control weeds and establish/maintain native grass stands. Selective application of herbicide and/or other weed control efforts may also be required (weed whacking, manual weed extraction, herbicides, pre-emergent application, etc.) Tree trimming/pruning and mulching onsite is required on an as needed basis.

River Wilderness Park (70+ acres): Weed control/abatement services, including weed wiping, mowing, and/or application of herbicides/pre-emergent, are required annually along roads found throughout the property, and around the parking lot and structures found onsite. A defensible space is also maintained between the onsite structures and adjacent hillside vegetation. Tree trimming/pruning and mulching onsite is required on an as needed basis.

As the WCA solicits work throughout the fiscal year from a combination of the CCC's and a weed abatement contractor, it's imperative that there is monitoring of the work completed to ensure that it is up to the standards that are required by the Los Angeles County fire department. WCA monitors all of its properties, and schedules weed abatement and brush clearance services as they are needed. Additionally, WCA provides oversight of the crews and their work, providing instruction as to which plants to maintain and which to remove. CCC's crews are often scheduled for a week, multiple times during the year during which a WCA staff member has to be available to supervise the project.

See attached Exhibit A- Budget.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** The funding for this project will utilize Environmental License Plate Funds for this contract from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy support budget.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that: Section 32614: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.

## Exhibit A-Budget

### Property Management Service Agreements

	Approximate Annual Services by Location	Time Period	Amount Not to Exceed
<b>FY15-16 Interagency Agreement with California Conservation Corps (CCC)</b>		Through June 30, 2016	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>CCC (Average crew size up to 15)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duck Farm</li> </ul>	950-1100 hrs/year		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Wilderness Park (a.k.a. El Encanto)</li> </ul>	350-450 hrs/year		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other locations: Parque Dos Rios, Walnut Creek, Citrus Heights, Mt. Baldy</li> </ul>	as needed basis		
<b>WCA Agreement</b>		Through June 30, 2016	<b>\$20,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crew Oversight/Coordination</li> </ul>	10 – 20 hrs/month		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed Management Contractor Services</li> </ul>	up to \$10,000		
<b>TOTAL AGREEMENTS</b>			<b>\$35,000</b>

September 28, 2015 – Item 13

RESOLUTION 2015-22

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) AUTHORIZING AN  
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA  
CONSERVATION CORPS (RMC15502) AND MANAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT WITH THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
(RMC15504).

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84); and the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

WHEREAS, This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

*Therefore be it resolved that* the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
  2. FINDS that this action is consistent with the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50); the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), and the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
  3. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Passed and Adopted by the Board of the

SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on September 28, 2015.

- 4. Adopts the staff report dated September 28, 2015.
- 5. Approves and interagency agreement with the California Conservation Corps (RMC15502) for \$15,000 for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- 6. Approves a management agreement with the Watershed Conservation Authority (RMC15504) for \$20,000.00 for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

~ End of Resolution ~

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Fujimoto  
Deputy Attorney General