

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 25, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant from the Conservancy Fund for registration of MRCA staff and community partners at the World Ranger Congress.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant from the Conservancy Fund in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for registration of representative MRCA staff and community partners at the World Ranger Congress.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33215, 33204.2 (a) and 33204.27 (a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The 7th annual World Ranger Congress will be held in Arusha, Tanzania on November 4-9, 2012. The International Ranger Federation holds a World Ranger Congress every 2-3 years as an international forum for park rangers and other park professionals. This year's theme is Healthy Parks, Hungry People.

One of the trends being addressed at the conference is the lack of access to national parks and conservation areas by local people. Given the MRCA's experience with this issue here in our country, staff has submitted and been accepted to present two sessions.

The first session, titled *Rangers on the Urban Edge - Marketing Through Partnership*, MRCA rangers will describe how they meet the challenges, and take advantage of the opportunities found in the proximity of dense urban environments adjacent to protected open space. They will further elaborate on how to do so, by demonstrating the need to build relationships with other agencies and community groups, and the necessity to bridge these two worlds, marketing the values of each and often becoming the "go to" contact that brings people and resource protection together.

Supervising Ranger Jewel Johnson; Chief Ranger Fernando Gomez, and Executive Officer Joseph T. Edmiston will present this session.

In the second session, MRCA Chief Ranger Gomez and Chief of Interpretation Jamie Cabral will be joined by Mayisha Akbar, Executive Director of the Compton Junior Posse (CJP), and 5 graduates of the CJP-MRCA Junior Ranger Program. This session titled Interpretation on the Urban Edge - Partnership for Community Involvement, will address two global trends which have important implications for the preservation of our natural heritage – the rapid urbanization of the world and the increased separation of people from nature.

MRCA staff and the CJP will illustrate the best practices in working with community partners, and the young attendees from the CJP will discuss the value of these types of programs for the youth involved and the resources being protected.

In addition to the presentations, the trip will be documented on video and with participant journaling by members of the CJP. This once in a life time experience to present at an international congress on work they are doing in their own community is part of the leadership youth development they began by becoming Junior Rangers. At the end of their trip the CJP participants will make presentations on their trip to other community organizations.

The funding requested is for conference registration, which includes lodging for participants and totals less than 25% of the total budget. Staff will be contributing their own personal funds for airfare, park entries, visas, etc., and the Compton Posse will raise matching funds for their participation beyond registration.

Conservancy Fund	\$ 10,000.00
Staff contribution	\$ 12,650.00
Compton Junior Posse	\$ 18,980.00
	\$ 41,630.00 total cost