

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 18, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant from the Environmental License Plate Fund for the Community Nature Connection Naturalist Explorer Leadership Program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant from the Environmental License Plate Fund for the Community Nature Connection Naturalist Explorer Leadership Program in the amount of \$100,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Naturalist Explorer Leadership Program, operated by Community Nature Connection (CNC), a 501(c)3 non profit organization, is a 14 week comprehensive environmental education and youth leadership program that introduces young adults from disadvantaged communities to the outdoors and trains them as interpretive naturalists. The program includes natural and cultural history of the Santa Monica Mountains, team building and leadership development, facilitation and interpretive skills, and a capstone project. In 2019 CNC will facilitate multiple Naturalist Explorer units, each with the capacity of 12-15 participants. The programs will operate in partnership with a number of community-based organizations through out Los Angeles County. The \$100,000 in funding will support the development and coordination these Naturalist Explorer units.

Analysis - California Environmental License Plate Fund

The California Environmental Protection Program receives revenue from the sale of personalized motor vehicle license plates by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Revenues are deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). Funds expended pursuant to Division 12.5 of the Public Resources Code must have one or more of the following purposes:

- The control and abatement of air pollution, including all phases of research into the sources, dynamics and effects of environmental pollutants.
- The acquisition, preservation, restoration, or any combination thereof, of natural areas or ecological reserves.
- Environmental education, including formal school programs and informal public education programs.

Agenda Item 9(b)

June 18, 2018

Page 2

- Protection of nongame species and threatened and endangered plants and animals.
- Protection, enhancement, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and related water quality, including review of the potential impact of development activities and land use changes on that habitat.
- The purchase, on an opportunity basis, of real property consisting of sensitive natural areas for the state park system and for local and regional parks.
- Reduction or minimization of the effects of soil erosion and the discharge of sediment into waters of the Lake Tahoe region, including restoration of disturbed wetlands and stream environment zones.

The appropriations and expenditures for programs and projects funded from the California Environmental License Plate Fund are contained in the budgets of the various state boards, commissions, and departments.

All elements of the request fit within the definitions of eligible activities (environmental education).