

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 24, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account (DREOA) Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for reimbursement of current year Emergency Response and Safety Measures costs related the Woolsey Fire and subsequent storms.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account (DREOA) Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for reimbursement of current year Emergency Response and Safety Measures costs related the Woolsey Fire and subsequent storms.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code and Government Code Section 8690.6.

Background: In most instances, state departments that have incurred costs or losses because of disasters such as floods, storms, and fires should seek reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), once a federal disaster declaration has been made.

To the extent that FEMA and CalOES funds are not sufficient or are not available to meet critical funding needs, funding for eligible costs may be provided pursuant to Government Code (GC) Section 8690.6. The GC establishes the Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account (DREOA) within the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties (SFEU). The funds in this account are continuously appropriated for allocation by the Director of the Department of Finance (Finance) to state agencies for disaster response operation costs incurred by those state agencies as a result of a proclamation by the Governor of a state of emergency. Departments requesting funding via GC 8690.6 must submit a DF-580 to their respective Finance Budget Analyst, with appropriate supporting justification, breakout of costs by category and amount, and any other additional documentation required by their Finance Budget Analyst.

During the Woolsey Fire and throughout the subsequent storms, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) provided emergency response services and provided other safety measures on behalf of the Conservancy that will not be reimbursed by FEMA or CalOES.

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For example, the threat of mudflows in and around burn areas was extreme and regular/frequent debris removal and other protective actions were necessary to prevent flows and flooding. In addition, several of the Conservancy's properties were heavily damaged. In some cases utilities were cutoff in the fire and the MRCA has been working on the Conservancy's behalf to restore those services. Also, the access ways to the various properties needed to be assessed before staff, repair equipment and eventually the public could be allowed to return. To safely assess and restore the property, the Conservancy relied on the MRCA to immediately restore safe access and basic utilities such as water, power, gas and phone as well as radio communication and monitoring equipment in some cases. Similar safety issues were addressed at multiple Conservancy properties to ensure the safety of state property, the safety of employees as well as the safety of adjoining neighbors and the visiting public.

Conservancy staff, with assistance from the California Natural Resources Agency worked with the respective Finance Budget Analyst to request this \$500,000 to reimburse the MRCA for these immediate safety related costs performed on behalf of the Conservancy. The request was approved by Finance and the DREOA funds have been transferred to the Conservancy. As the encumbrance deadline for these funds is June 30, 2019 and the costs to be reimbursed have already been incurred, authorization for immediate encumbrance and advance of these funds is required.