

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2013

To: The Governing Board Members

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

Subject: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to, and entering into a project agreement with, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use 4th Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds for southeast Los Angeles County Habitat connector, Sonome Canyon, Carbon Canyon, and Tonner Canyon watersheds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to, and entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use 4th Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the Southeast Los Angeles County Habitat Connector Project in the Sonome Canyon, Carbon Canyon, and Tonner Canyon watersheds.

Background: The Southeast Los Angeles County Habitat Connector Project is located in the farthest southeast corner of Los Angeles County. The project is part of the Puente Hills ecological area which stretches from the San Gabriel River to the west and San Bernardino-Los Angeles County to the east. Habitats found in the project are walnut woodlands, southern oak woodland, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and riparian woodlands found in Tonner Canyon.

This project is designed to acquire the maximum amount of habitat in the area bounded by the City of Diamond Bar to the north, Chino Hills State Park to the south, San Bernardino-Los Angeles County line to the east, and State Route 57 to the west. Parcels run from east to west and range in size from 999-acres to 1-acre. The 27 parcels total 3,550-acres. These parcels help to round out the high quality natural habitats found in the eastern portion of the Puente Hills ecological area.

Proposition A has a provision that allocates Excess Funds to each Supervisorial District. One of the types of Specified Excess Funds is Big Five Excess Funds. WCCA is the entity designated in the Proposition to expend Big Five Excess Funds in the Whitter-Puente Hills area. There are \$17,000,000 of unexpended Big Five Excess Funds in this pot.