

# 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 VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to, and entering into a project agreement with, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds for north slope Rowland Heights-Puente Hills project, watersheds of Powder Canyon, Brea Canyon, San Jose Creek, San Gabriel River, and unnamed tributaries.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to, and entering into a project agreement with, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District Specified Proposition A Excess Funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 for the North Slope Rowland Heights-Puente Hills Project in the Powder Canyon, Brea Canyon, San Jose Creek, San Gabriel River Watersheds.

Background: The Rowland Heights-Puente Hills project is located in the Puente Hills natural area. The Puente Hills are inland topographical feature that separates the San Gabriel Valley to the north and the coastal plain to the south. The hills are oriented east-west and stretch from the San Gabriel River to the west and the San Bernardino-Los Angeles County line to the east, where they transition into the Chino Hills.

The Rowland Heights-Puente Hills project is designed to acquire the maximum amount of habitat bounded by the unincorporated Rowland Heights Community to the north, Aera properties to the south, La Habra Heights to the west, and State Route 57 to the east. The 28 parcels range in size from 170-acres to 0.5-acre and total 830-acres. These parcels help to round out the high quality natural habitat units found in the Puente Hill 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.