

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 18, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution endorsing Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Measure.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending endorsing Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Measure.

Background: The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday July 5, 2016, to place a parks funding measure on the November 2016 ballot. The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection and Water Conservation Measure would replace funding under Proposition A, passed more than 20 years ago and that is set to expire in 2019. The measure would add a parcel acre of one-and-a-half cent per square foot of developed property. An average homeowner with a 1,500 square foot home would pay approximately \$22.50 a year. Properties owned by public agencies devoted to a public use or to protect public health or safety will not be assessed. If approved by voters, the measure would raise just over \$94 million dollar annually.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority participated in the Los Angeles County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. Open space and natural areas were addressed in the needs assessment and recognized as a regional resource that serves the recreation needs of the whole county. Furthermore, distribution of these areas throughout the County is uneven and therefore the creation of open space and natural areas in the regions of the County that lack these resources is not currently feasible.

Regional open space of more than 5 acres and natural areas of 100+ acres are defined in the measure and both the SMMC and the MRCA submitted projects for inclusion which appear in the final version of the needs assessment. Thirteen percent (13%), on an annual basis, is in the measure for planning, acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration, of multibenefit park projects that promote, improve or protect clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, and open space, including improvements or restoration of areas that buffer our rivers, streams, and their tributaries along with the lakes and beaches throughout the County. Additional grant funds are available for access programs, including job training, transportation and environmental

education.