

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2017

To: The Governing Board Members

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

Subject: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) to acquire park and natural land authorized for acquisition by the Authority and to transfer to the Authority any real property interest acquired for no additional consideration so long as the Authority agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of Proposition A 1996 and the project agreement.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) to acquire park and natural land authorized for acquisition by the Authority and to transfer to the Authority any real property interest acquired for no additional consideration so long as the Authority agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of Proposition A 1996 and the project agreement.

Background: This agenda item and the other three agenda items (VIII, X, and XI) are all related to Los Angeles County Proposition A funding issue. See staff report for Item VIII for complete background.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority), a joint exercise of powers entity established pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*, owns, preserves, and actively manages thousands of acres of park and natural lands within the Whittier Hills and the contiguous Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor both west and east of Colima Road.

It appears from the discussions at the last Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) Board meeting and from the Sub-Committee report that there is a strong preference of the Board that properties acquired by WCCA be transferred in fee to the Authority, to be managed by the Authority. There is a process for the transfer of properties to another entity and where the new entity assumes the responsibilities under Proposition A. The Proposition A term is Assignment and Assumption of Grant Agreement. It appears the reason the WCCA Board wishes the property(ies) to be transferred to the Authority is that the Authority is set up to do management in this area.

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It seems that properties that are eligible for Authority management should be managed by the Authority, based on their own limitations. If the Authority were to acquire and manage such land, it appears the Authority should authorize what they are willing to manage so its clear that they will be the management entity. See the map attached to Item VIII showing the eastern border of the Authority jurisdiction. The Authority could only hold land west of the line shown on the map—roughly west of Powder Canyon, inclusive.