

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 X: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition and acquisition services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition and acquisition services.

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

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a local government public entity established in 1985 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act. The MRCA is a local partnership between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which is a state agency established by the Legislature, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District both of which are local park agencies established by the vote of the people in those communities.

Staff of MRCA has extensive experience handling Board actions and budgets for the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA). Since its inception decades ago, over eighty percent of the staff costs of WCCA and all of its staff work have been provided by the staff of the MRCA and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The MRCA planning staff and legal staff handle a continuous stream of acquisitions ranging from processing small deed restrictions to multi-million dollar transactions. The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District knows the MRCA well. The proposed contract with the MRCA would be on a time and materials basis that includes the MRCA's cost allocation percentage on each staff hour worked.

Attached to the staff report for Item VIII is a map showing the eastern border of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) jurisdiction. The Authority could only hold land west of the line shown on the map—roughly west of Powder Canyon, inclusive.

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Notwithstanding, WCCA could acquire easements outside the jurisdiction of the Authority, with no to minimal management responsibilities. Often conservation easements do not include an obligation for active management. They may include the option or right to conduct management activities on the property.