

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

570 WEST AVENUE 26, SUITE 100, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065

TELEPHONE: (310) 589-3230

FAX: (310) 589-2408

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 8, 2017

To: The Governing Board Members

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

Subject: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution amending budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution amending budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Background: Staff received the project agreement for a \$1 million grant to Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) to acquire property located east of Colima Road as specified in 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14). The project agreement for the Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor Acquisition is 100 percent executed.

Of the \$1 million, twenty percent is allowed to be used for administrative expenses; this totals \$200,000. At the January 20, 2017 WCCA meeting, the Board authorized entering into a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for pre-acquisition and acquisition services. The Board also authorized entering into a contract with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) for pre-acquisition and acquisition services.

The WCCA Board also authorized entering into an agreement with the Habitat Authority to acquire park and natural land authorized for acquisition by the Habitat Authority and to transfer to the Habitat Authority any real property interest acquired for no additional consideration so long as the Habitat Authority agrees to comply with the applicable provisions of Proposition A 1996 and the project agreement.

According to the WCCA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, the Treasurer of the City of Whittier is the Financial Officer of WCCA. The City of Whittier provides financial services, including performing the functions of auditor or controller, to WCCA at no cost to WCCA. However, with the administration of this new grant, City staff has indicated that there would be additional cost to WCCA associated with expanded audit and financial reporting requirements.

The administrative expenses (\$200,000) would cover staff work (full-up costs and cost allocation) and expenses for MRCA, Habitat Authority, and City of Whittier. These administrative expenses would also cover related administrative expenses such as closing costs, appraisals, appraisal reviews, title reports, legal

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descriptions, Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, other environmental reports, postage, mileage, printing/copies, California Environmental Quality Act processing fees, and expanded audit and financial reporting requirements by City of Whittier.

The proposed budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is for the entire grant amount (\$1 million). After the fiscal year ends (June 30, 2017), staff will determine the remaining funds in the grant and will bring another action to the Board to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to carry over the remaining unspent grant funds.