

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 22, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a Transfer of Jurisdiction (APNS 500-0-360-365 and 410 at 48 and 1.0 acres, respectively) from the California Department of Transportation, Arroyo Simi, Moorpark area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a Transfer of Jurisdiction (APNS 500-0-360-365 and 410 at 48 and 1.0 acres, respectively) from the California Department of Transportation, Arroyo Simi, Moorpark area.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) a couple of years ago informed local and state agencies about a 49-acre surplus property along the Arroyo Simi just south of Moorpark and the 118 freeway. The City of Moorpark showed interest as well as the new joint powers authority between the Conservancy and the City (Moorpark Watershed, Parks, Recreation and Conservation Authority). The Caltrans number for the property is 73228-01-01.

Earlier the month staff from the Caltrans Excess Land Division contacted staff and said they needed to transfer the parcel in the current fiscal year. Their staff determined that the only feasible way to make such a deadline was to do a Transfer of Jurisdiction to another State agency. The Conservancy is the obvious entity to step up to this task. An aerial photograph of the two parcels is attached. Also attached is the northern section of the Conservancy's Tierra Rejada Valley Habitat Linkage Hub Planning Map adopted in July of 2018. The property is major habitat component of the both the Simi Hills and the Tierra Rejada Valley habitat linkage the connects the Santa Susana Mountains to the Simi Hills, Santa Monica Mountains, and Montclef Ridge.

The property contains a short section of the Arroyo Simi with riparian habitat and a large section of older flood plain with some riparian species. The upland areas support grassland, mixed sage scrub and scattered oak trees. The property is well protected from unwanted intrusion and dumping by the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, the Arroyo itself, and by various large acreage public properties. The eastern property boundary abuts Ventura County Flood Control District property. A well maintained dirt road that is connected to private properties bisects the property. The transfer would be at no cost to the Conservancy.

