

# WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: June 11, 2019

To: The Governing Board Members

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

Subject: **Agenda Item XI: Discussion and possible action regarding 1) the acceptance of approximately 300 acres (APNs 1033-151-27 and 1033-171-14); 2) the acceptance of related stewardship funding; and 3) entering into a management agreement with, and granting said stewardship money to, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; City of Chino Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board discuss and take possible action to authorize: 1) the acceptance of approximately 300 acres (APNs 1033-151-27 and 1033-171-14); 2) the acceptance of related stewardship funding; and 3) entering into a management agreement with, and granting said stewardship money to, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; City of Chino Hills.

Background: Conservation groups working in the eastern Puente-Chino Hills where Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties meet have requested the need for a public agency to accept and hold title to an approximately 300-acre in holding of Chino Hills State Park. The parcels are high priority on the Chino Hills State Park acquisition plan (see attached). However, State Parks is currently reticent to accept additional lands. In order to meet the State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) deadline to receive funding, an agency must adopt a resolution authorizing acceptance of the property this month. The attached map shows how the two contiguous parcels abut State Park land on three sides.

As a first choice recipient, the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is scheduled to authorize acceptance of the property at its June 5, 2019 meeting. The MRCA is equipped to manage the property. The agency that accepts the land would also receive a one time payment for a minimum of \$150,000. The MRCA planning, legal, and ranger staffs have strong familiarity with this area through staffing for the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) and a longstanding contract for ranger services with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

Because of both the tight timing of the project's funding and the regional importance of the property, as a precaution staff has agendized WCCA's potential acceptance of the property in case there are any impediments with the MRCA's acceptance.

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The soonest the MRCA or WCCA would need to take title and begin management duties is in November 2019. The MRCA's proposed action also authorizes the MRCA to transfer the property to State Parks. It is reasonable to expect that State Parks will ultimately want this high priority property to be part of Chino Hills State Park.

In regards to property management, to reach the property by foot or vehicle from any direction, multiple locked gates must be negotiated. The property has extremely low risk for any dumping or need for law enforcement action. No annual fuel modification is required. MRCA rangers can work cooperatively with State Park rangers. In short, the property would require a minimum level of maintenance and oversight.