

# SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA  
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE  
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board



**FROM:** Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

**DATE:** December 3, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item XI: Introduction and first reading of a Park Ordinance Establishing Park Rules and Regulations and Prescribing the Punishment for Violation Thereof, as duly adopted and amended by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, on properties owned and managed by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority.

**Staff Recommendation:** That the Governing Board approve the introduction and waive the first reading of the proposed Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Park Ordinance ("Ordinance") Establishing Park Rules and Regulations and Prescribing the Punishment for Violation Thereof, as amended by the MRCA, on properties owned and managed by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA), and take the necessary steps to advance the Ordinance in accordance with Government Code §§ 36931-36937.

**Background:** At the January 15, 2019 meeting, the Governing Board identified the need for ranger patrol, maintenance, and the posting of rules signs on SCWRCA property. The Governing Board indicated its initial finding that the MRCA is the most qualified entity to provide patrol, servicing, and maintenance for SCWRCA properties. On June 6, 2019 the Governing Board approved the introduction and first reading as the first step to adopt enforcement of the MRCA Ordinance on properties owned and managed by SCWRCA. Since the first reading, the MRCA amended its Ordinance to reflect updates to statutory and case. The MRCA Ordinance as amended on July 1, 2020 is attached as Exhibit A.

In order to fulfill the Governing Board's stated intent to adopt the current version of the MRCA Ordinance, staff recommends reconsideration of the first reading of the Ordinance. If passed after a subsequent second reading, the Governing Board would be adopting the MRCA's Ordinance, a comprehensive Ordinance currently in effect on all parkland owned or operated by the MRCA. Under the MRCA Ordinance, MRCA Rangers, under a contract with SCWRCA, will provide patrol and enforcement of the Ordinance on the subject SCWRCA properties.

Pursuant to the SCWRCA Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Santa Clarita ("City") and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), SCWRCA exercises its authority subject to the restrictions placed on the City as outlined in Government Code Section 36900, *et seq.* Specifically, adoption of the Ordinance requires an introduction and a second reading prior to approval. The final approval must take place at a regular meeting, or a regular adjourned meeting not earlier than five days following introduction. Following adoption, an ordinance must be published as required by the Government Code and will take effect thirty days after final passage.

It is staff's recommendation that the Governing Board approve this item and schedule a regular meeting to a subsequent date certain to entertain final approval and adoption of the Ordinance.