



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 6, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional service contract with SCI Consulting Group for planning and survey work for potential funding mechanisms.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with SCI Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for planning and survey work for potential funding mechanisms in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.

Background: On November 9, 2011 this Board approved a resolution authorizing a professional service contract with SCI Consulting Group for developing a future funding measure.

As a result of the planning and survey work performed by SCI Consulting Group, on June 27, 2012, this Board passed resolutions declaring its intention to establish two Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended, Chapter 2.5 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5, commencing at Section 53311, of the California Government Code.

On August 7, 2012, this Board passed resolutions to establish two CFDs (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Community Facilities Districts Nos. 1 and 2) in order to finance the acquisition, maintenance, improvement, servicing, protection, and preservation of open space, parkland, wildlife corridors, natural habitats, lands, waters and facilities owned or managed by the MRCA within the CFDs. The Board ordered an election on a special tax of \$24 for District 1 and \$19 for District 2 on November 2, 2012. At that election, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Community Facilities Districts Nos. 1 and 2 special taxes were approved by a combined average of 72% of the voters.

In the last four years there has been a more than 100 percent increase in use of the facilities owned and operated by the MRCA in the two CFDs. There are also opportunities to purchase remaining parcels of open space habitat critical to the

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preservation of wildlife corridors in these areas of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. Because SCI Consulting Group helped establish the CFDs four years ago, they are uniquely qualified to evaluate the community support to possibly augment the existing CFDs, and design a funding mechanism that could provide more services such as increased public safety patrol in the Mulholland Corridor, and protect the remaining open space in these areas.