



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 15, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V: Consideration of resolution withdrawing support for Los Angeles City Measure S in light of planning reforms enacted by the City Council**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board approve the attached resolution for withdrawing the Governing Board's support for the proposed Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, Measure S, in the City of Los Angeles in light of efforts that address MRCA's staff concerns.

Background: The City of Los Angeles General Plan has not been updated in over 20 years. In lieu of a modern General Plan, the City Council continues spot zoning and General Plan amendments at an accelerated rate in portions of the City relevant to the mission and objectives of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The City allows developers to choose their own preparers of environmental documents. City planning commissions meet during the day when affected citizens have a difficult time attending. These factors result in excessive environmental and recreational impacts within the City. Combined, these challenges led MRCA Staff to recommend supporting the proposed City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, which would have placed a moratorium on much of these damaging developments. This resulted in a staff recommendation that the MRCA Governing Board adopt Resolution No. 17-04. On January 4, 2017, the Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 17-04.

Since the Governing Board's resolution, the City of Los Angeles has taken positive steps to address the MRCA's environmental concerns over City Planning inadequacies. For example, this includes Councilman Jose Huizar's plan for updating the city's 35 neighborhood planning documents, an issue central in the Measure S debate. This also includes last week's City Council vote to develop an ordinance mandating community plan updates every six years, stricter than Measure S's "possible updating" of the community plans requirement.

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Because of positive steps taken by the City, the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative on the March 2017 City of Los Angeles Ballot no longer directly aids MRCA in fulfilling its environmental mission.