



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 15, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution supporting the Los Angeles County Measure H, the Los Angeles County Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board approve the attached resolution to support the Los Angeles County Measure H, the Los Angeles County Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness.

Background: The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has placed a measure on the March 7, 2017 ballot to authorize a 0.25 percent countywide sales tax for a period of 10 years to fund homeless services and prevention. Measure H, known as the Los Angeles County Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness, requires a 2/3 vote for approval. If approved, services provided by Measure H will include mental health and substance abuse treatment, health care, education, job training, rental and housing subsidies, case management and services as well as emergency and affordable housing, transportation, outreach, prevention, and supportive services for homeless children, families, foster youth, veterans, battered women, seniors, disabled individuals, and other homeless adults.

Over the last several years, MRCA rangers and park staff have observed a significant increase in the number of homeless utilizing MRCA parkland for various purposes. While many of these uses are not problematic, certain uses do present park management difficulties for MRCA staff. Unauthorized overnight camping, erection of illegal structures, and damage to park facilities and habitat are examples of the types of uses that pose a threat to MRCA parkland. Staff recognizes the need to provide better alternatives for people to provide for their basic needs so that MRCA parklands do not become a defacto source of services to the detriment of the environment and recreational opportunities.

Staff has concluded that Measure H is a necessary part of the solution to the chronic homelessness in Los Angeles County. It may not be sufficient on its own to resolve this issue, but, since staff believes this is an issue of paramount importance, adoption of this resolution in support of Measure H is recommended.