



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 1, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution approving contract with SCI Consulting Group for feasibility studies for continued and improved open space acquisition and operations in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving contract with SCI Consulting Group for feasibility studies for continued and improved open space acquisition and operations in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Background: 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 are 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.

Again, on June 29, 2016, this Board passed resolutions to establish two additional CFDs (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Community Facilities Districts Nos. 2016-1 and 2016-2) in order to finance the continued acquisition, maintenance, improvement, servicing, protection, and preservation of open space, parkland, wildlife corridors, natural habitats, lands, waters and facilities owned are managed by the MRCA within the CFDs. The Board ordered an election on a special tax of \$35 for District 1 and \$15 for District 2 on November 8, 2016. 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 77% of the voters.

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In a continued effort to search for funding for operations, maintenance and open space acquisitions in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone, the feasibility studies would be in phases as warranted in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. SCI Consulting Group remains uniquely qualified to perform these studies due to their involvement in all previous MRCA measures and in-depth understanding of the Agency and its distinct needs. Moreover, SCI Consulting Group has continually been successful in its analysis of possible MRCA funding opportunities.