



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 8, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the Liberty Canyon/Route 101 wildlife crossing.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into the Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for a wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway and Agoura Road.

Background: Planning for a proposed wildlife crossing bridge over the 101 and Agoura Road has been underway for several years now, and more recently is being shepherded by a partnership of staff from MRCA, Caltrans, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, National Park Service, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, along with participation by former State Senator Fran Pavley and representatives from the offices of Assemblymember Bloom and State Senator Stern. The Cooperative Agreement draft is attached. Also, please see the attached Caltrans Project Report.

Caltrans completed project analysis and environmental review documentation earlier this spring (with funding from several sources including grants from the Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy, and NWF.) Since MRCA owns the parklands on either side of the 101 and Agoura Road, it is the primary partner with Caltrans for continued phases of the project and is characterized as the project sponsor. This Cooperative Agreement is a typical Caltrans format for cooperative projects, and a necessary step for Caltrans to begin its Plans, Specifications and Estimates phase (PS&E; essentially the engineering and construction plans for the project). NWF expects to raise sufficient funds for Caltrans to begin that work early 2019 if not sooner. MRCA has already signed an agreement with NWF to receive their donated funds in order to pass through to Caltrans for the work.

NWF continues to raise public awareness and funds for this phase, leading to major fundraising for the actual construction phase.