



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 5, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of: (a) APNs 1033-151-27 and 1033-171-14 totaling approximately 300 acres; (b) stewardship funding, and (c) future transfer to State Parks, adjacent to Chino Hills State Park, City of Chino Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of: (a) APNs 1033-151-27 and 1033-171-14 totaling approximately 300 acres; (b) stewardship funding, and (c) future transfer to State Parks, adjacent to Chino Hills State Park, City of Chino Hills.

Background: Conservation groups working in the eastern Puente-Chino Hills where Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties meet have requested for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to accept and hold title to an approximately 300-acre in holding of Chino Hills State Park. The parcels are high priority on the Chino Hills State Park acquisition plan (see attached). However, State Parks is currently reticent to accept additional lands, in this case because of perceived costs. In order to meet the State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) deadline to receive funding, an agency must adopt a resolution authorizing acceptance of the property this month.

The overall funding arrangement for the property will provide a minimum of a one time \$150,000 contribution to the management entity. The MRCA planning, legal, and ranger staffs have strong familiarity with this area through staffing for the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) and a longstanding contract for ranger services with the Puente Hills Landfill Habitat Preservation Authority. The attached map shows how the two contiguous parcels abut State Park land on three sides. To reach the property by foot or vehicle from any direction, multiple locked gates must be negotiated. The property has extremely low risk for any dumping or need for law enforcement action. No annual fuel modification is required. MRCA rangers can work cooperatively with State Park rangers. In short, the property

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would require a minimum level of maintenance and oversight. The soonest the MRCA would need to take title and begin management duties is in November 2019. The proposed action also authorizes the MRCA to transfer the property to State Parks. It is reasonable to expect that State Parks will ultimately want this high priority property to be part of Chino Hills State Park.