



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for the Hidden Creeks Estates acquisition project, Santa Susana Mountains, unincorporated County of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution retroactively authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for the 261-acre Hidden Creeks Estates acquisition project located in the Santa Susana Mountains, in unincorporated County of Los Angeles.

Background: The subject grant application for Proposition 1 funds is intended to complement previously approved funds for the acquisition of the 261-acre Hidden Creeks Estates property (APNs 2821-008-301 and 035). This acquisition was previously approved by the Board on October 2, 2019 (Resolution No. 19-158). The subject grant application has already been submitted to and approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The subject Hidden Creeks Estates property is located within, and in-between Browns Canyon and Mormon Canyon in the Santa Susana Mountains. The property is regionally significant within the Santa Susana Mountains ecosystem. The section of Mormon Creek within and adjacent to the property provides year-round clear surface flows even in the waning summer months of consecutive drought years. The property abuts Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch that is part of an 11,000-acre contiguous MRCA-owned block of habitat.

Staff has sought to acquire the subject property for more than a decade. The current owners are willing sellers at a specific price for the whole property and at a lesser price for two parcels that make up the bulk of the ownership.