



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 4, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing: (1) entering into an agreement with the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority regarding assignment of Los Angeles County Measure A Servicing and Maintenance funding; and (2) acceptance of said funding to manage eligible properties.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize (1) entering into an agreement with the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority regarding assignment of Los Angeles County Measure A Servicing and Maintenance funding; and (2) acceptance of said funding to manage eligible properties.

Background: Section 6(2)(A) in 2018 Los Angeles County Measure A allocates percentages of Maintenance and Servicing money to various entities. The total amount available will fluctuate based on the square feet of development area in the County. The Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) is allocated 1.0 percent of the total pot. SCWRCA is a joint powers entity comprised of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the City of Santa Clarita. Currently staff's best deduction of that amount for both year 2019 and 2020 dollars is approximately \$140,000 annually to SCWRCA for the maintenance and servicing of properties in which some of the capital funding came from either the 1992 or 1996 Proposition A measures for grants assigned to SCWRCA.

Section 1.6 number 2 of the Grant Administration Manual for Measure A states,

"A city, the county, or a joint powers agency may assign a portion or all of its unexpended M & S funds to a nonprofit or other public agency to maintain a project funded by RPOSD. The duration of this assignment must also be defined."

On January 15, 2019 the SCWRCA Governing Board adopted a resolution to assign annually all but \$5,000 of its maintenance and servicing funding to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to maintain eligible properties. At an earlier meeting the SCWRCA Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the MRCA to manage SCWRCA properties and in June 2019 authorizing enforcement of the MRCA Ordinance on SCWRCA properties. (SCWRCA needs a final Board action to begin enforcement of the Ordinance.) Now that maintenance funding is available to SCWRCA, the final action needed is for the MRCA to authorize entering into such a maintenance agreement with SCWRCA and to accept the assignment of the funding. The Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) has requested such a resolution.

The principal SCWRCA property that is eligible for the maintenance funding is the 1,100-acre Rio Dulce property in Agua Dulce Canyon. The MRCA has informally provided minimal basic maintenance on this property using general fund sources. In addition the RPOSD verified to staff that nine additional MRCA-owned properties totaling approximately 80 acres are eligible for this maintenance funding. The MRCA has been using general fund sources to provide minimal basic maintenance on these properties too. (The MRCA was the original grantee of the Proposition A grant to acquire the Rio Dulce property, but in turn it was required to be assigned to SCWRCA. Prior to that assignment, the MRCA had used the grant to acquire the subject nine tax defaulted properties.)

Although still not one hundred percent clear, the funding would go to SCWRCA's fiscal agent the City of Santa Clarita and then be disbursed to MRCA. It is also not clear yet, if and how, SCWRCA can recover 2019 maintenance funding.