MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement (approximately 2 acres) over APN 4355-005-001, 1471 Summit Ridge Drive, City of Los Angeles.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize acceptance of a conservation easement (approximately 2 acres) over APN 4355-005-001, 1471 Summit Ridge Drive, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The subject two-acre parcel is located on the ridgeline between Peavine and Franklin Canyons. It is contiguous with Habitat Block No. 74 on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy’s Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map. The vegetation cover is mostly non-native perennial and annual grassland with scattered shrubs which is mostly beneficial to reptiles, raptors, and ground squirrels. A private party is acquiring the property to preclude its division into four lots to accommodate four 10,000-square-foot houses. The private party would wait a year for tax purposes and then donate a conservation easement over the whole parcel to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The donor desires the assurance that the MRCA is a partner in this generous endeavor to further protect the Santa Monica Mountains. With a conservation easement, the MRCA would no liability or brushing obligations.