


## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** July 29, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution modifying resolution declaring intention to establish Community Facilities District No. 2020-1 and approving amended and restated description of services and rate and method of apportionment.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution modifying resolution declaring intention to establish Community Facilities District No. 2020-1 (Local Fire Prevention, Water Quality and Open Space Measure) and approving amended and restated description of services and rate and method of apportionment.

Background: On August 7, 2012 the Governing Board established Community Facilities District No. 1 ("CFD No. 1") to finance the costs of the maintenance, acquisition, improvement, servicing, protection, and preservation of open space, parkland, wildlife corridors and facilities owned or managed by MRCA within CFD No. 1 (within the East Santa Monica Mountains/Hollywood Hills Area). On November 6, 2012 the measure was approved by the qualified registered voters within the boundaries of CFD No. 1 by receiving 68% support.

On August 3, 2016 the Governing Board established Community Facilities District No. 2016-1 for the purpose of funding fire prevention, wildlife corridors and open space protection by imposing a special tax on all taxable developed real property within the East Santa Monica Mountains/Hollywood Hills Area, the same boundaries as CFD No. 1. On November 8, 2016 the measure was approved by the qualified registered voters within the boundaries of CFD No. 2016-1 by receiving 83.68% support.

On June 24, 2020 the Governing Board approved a resolution declaring intention to establish Community Facilities District No. 2020-1 (the "CFD"). After its adoption the MRCA decided to add a low income exemption to the rate and method of apportionment. The low income exemption would apply to developed parcels owned

and occupied by a person or persons whose combined family income is at or below 50% of the median family income for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Metro Fair Market Rents Area shall be exempt from the special tax. Property owners seeking a low-income exemption must submit an application and provide the required verification documentation by June 1 prior to the tax year. The qualifying low-income ranges are from \$39,450 per year for a one person household up to \$56,300 per year for a four person household.

The proposed CFD has the exact boundaries as CFD No. 1 and CFD No. 2016-1. In the four years since CFD No. 2016-1 was approved, no one could have anticipated the unprecedented needs that have faced these communities. Because of increased use of the Mulholland Drive Corridor, due to increased population and use of social media, the funds generated by the CFD No. 1 and CFD No. 2016-1 have not kept pace with the unanticipated increased use of Mulholland Drive and MRCA parklands in the East Santa Monica Mountains/Hollywood Hills Area) and the impacted neighborhoods.

In addition, devastating wildfires in the area in recent years have made brush clearance and fire prevention services more important the ever. Since the establishment of CFD 2016-1 MRCA has been using more environmentally-safe methods to clear brush. While these methods are better for the environment they do have substantially increased costs and take longer. As a result has been difficult to keep up with effective brush clearance.

The first two weeks of June 2020 a survey was conducted to determine the public support and priorities of voters in the CFD to levy a special tax to fund wildfire prevention and protection services, park ranger safety and security patrols and protection and conservation of local open space, parklands and wildlife corridors. The results indicated strong support for a new measure.

If approved the funds from CFD 2020-1 would fund the acquisition, maintenance, improvement, servicing, protection, and preservation of open space, parklands, wildlife corridors, natural or other lands and facilities owned or managed or maintained by the MRCA within the CFD, and the reduction of the risk of wildfires.

If the Board approves these actions, additional steps in the process would need to be taken:

1. A Public Hearing for CFD 2020-1 will be held on July 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
2. At the Public Hearing, if approved, the Board would adopt a resolution calling for a special tax election to be held at the general election on November 3, 2020.
3. A two-thirds majority would be required for the measure to pass.