



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 5, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution (a) authorizing an application to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Public Access Program, (b) accepting the WCB grant award, and (c) entering into a grant agreement with WCB to implement the Hidden Creeks Park Public Access Improvement Project near unincorporated Chatsworth, Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution (a) authorizing an application to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Public Access Program, (b) accepting the WCB grant award, and (c) entering into a grant agreement with WCB to implement the Hidden Creeks Park Public Access Improvement Project near unincorporated Porter Ranch, Los Angeles County.

Background: In 2019, with funding assistance from the WCB and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the approximate 257-acre subject property, Hidden Creeks Park (Park), near the confluence of Browns Creek and Mormon Creek in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The proposed Hidden Creeks Park Public Access Improvement Project (Project) seeks \$269,000 of WCB Public Access Program funds to provide approximately 3.1 miles of trail improvements, connections to two existing public trails, trail and interpretive signage, picnic benches at two scenic overlooks, and trail fencing to expand public access at the subject property.

The Park's variable terrain includes an expansive 150-acre, undulating grassland plateau that offers long sightlines for wildlife viewing and is a haven for foraging raptors. The subject property also supports oak filled ravines, oak and black walnut savannah, and dramatic outcrops. The Park is a key property in the *Sierra Madre - Santa Monica Mountains Linkage*. The gentle terrain of the Parkland fits a wide range of trail users. Scores of acres of widely distributed coast live oak woodland provide both shade and the wildlife that inhabit such woodlands. Two proposed

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overlook picnic sites will allow for longer visits. The planned Hidden Creeks Park Trail Map is attached.