MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(i): Consideration of resolution authorizing expenditure of Community Facilities District funding to contribute to the acquisition of APNs 5567-018-039, 5567-018-040 and 5567-018-050 in Laurel Canyon (0.29 acres) with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority receiving conservation easements over all or some of said APNs, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing expenditure of up to $20,000 Community Facilities District funding to contribute to the acquisition of APNs 5567-018-039, 5567-018-040 and 5567-018-050 in Laurel Canyon (0.29 acres) with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority receiving conservation easements over all or some of said APNs.

Background: The Laurel Canyon Land Trust (LCLT) has a superb record of acquiring properties in the Laurel Canyon watershed. LCLT has the three above referenced parcels under contract to close in mid-December 2020. The parcels are in the upper Kirkwood Bowl area. One parcel ties together an MRCA lot with a LCLT lot.   All of the parcels abut dirt paper streets that are used a local trails. Those paper streets are Jewett Drive and West Elusive Drive. All three parcels are part of Habitat Block 53 on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's 2020 *Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map*.

LCLT needs funding to complete the transaction.   The proposed action would authorize the expenditure of up to $20,000 of Community Facilities District No. 1 funding towards the acquisitions. In return the MRCA would receive conservation easements over all three parcels. LCLT would retain fee simple ownership and all of it associated liabilities.