



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and authorizing the acquisition of all or a portion of APNs 1033-151-06-000, 1033-151-09-000, and 1033-151-10-0000 totaling approximately 320 acres, Chino Hills, San Bernardino County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and authorizing the acquisition of all or a portion of APNs 1033-151-06-000, 1033-151-09-000, and 1033-151-10-0000 totaling approximately 320 acres, Chino Hills, San Bernardino County.

Background: Last year the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired 320 acres adjacent to Chino Hills State Park. The Seller provided \$150,000 for maintenance. The MRCA resolution further authorized future transfer of the property to State Parks. Legislation is pending to authorize State Parks to add high priority lands to Chino Hills State Park.

The Conservation Fund has secured funding for a new 320-acre portion of an over 1,200-acre ownership that also abuts the eastern boundary of Chino Hills State Park. Until State Parks is authorized to add land to Chino Hills State Park, a land holding and management entity such as the MRCA is needed. The subject 320 acres, the MRCA's existing 320 acres, and the pending acquisition of 80 acres (Agenda Item VIII) are shown on an attached map. All of the properties are high priority acquisitions for Chino Hills State Park. The new 320 acres would also be accompanied with a substantial maintenance payment. With that funding, it will not be a financial burden to manage the property.

The subject property abuts State Park land on three sides. In regards to management liabilities, multiple locked gates, on both private and public land, separate the property from any paved road. For the first 320-acre MRCA acquisition, MRCA and California State Parks Inland Empire District signed an

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MOU. Staff will seek to amend that MOU to include new MRCA properties. MRCA rangers have long worked under contract in the Whittier - Puente Hills for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority.

This acquisition is on a fast track for grant approval by the Wildlife Conservation Board in May this year. The attached resolution authorizes entering into a grant agreement, acquiring the property, accepting maintenance funding, and future transfer to State Parks.

The property is an integral part of the Chino Hills core habitat area. The acquisition furthers the Governor's executive order to protect 30 percent of unprotected lands in California by 2030. The MRCA's capability to purchase portions of parcels in fee simple within the context of the Subdivision Map Act allows for the proposed partition of property.