



# 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: February 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and authorizing the acquisition of all or a portion of APN 1033-171-41-0000 (formerly 1033-171-12-0000 and 13-0000) totaling approximately 80 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 APN 1033-171-41-0000 (formerly 1033-171-12-0000 and 13-0000) totaling approximately 80 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 acquisition was shepherded by Hills for Everyone and funded by a combination of Wildlife Conservation Board and USFWS Section 6 grants. Hills for Everyone has secured funding for 80 adjacent acres from the same owner. The existing MRCA property and the subject 80 acres are shown on an attachment. The 80 acres would also be accompanied with a substantial maintenance payment.

The subject property is now surrounded by State Park and MRCA parkland. In regards to maintenance 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 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.

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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.