

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2005

To: Advisory Committee Members

From:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board support Green Visions' proposed data sharing agreement with Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee recommend that the Governing Board support Green Visions' proposed data sharing agreement with Los Angeles County.

Background: The Green Visions project (Green Visions Plan for the 21st Century Southern California) is a collaboration of the University of Southern California Center for Sustainable Studies and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). It is a multifaceted planning effort that involves numerous other agencies including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). A major part of the project entails the creation of an unprecedented GIS data base. A major hindrance to both creating and finalizing such a database is obtaining the GIS parcel data for almost two million land parcels in Los Angeles County. Currently, the only means of obtaining the parcel data is through two franchises licensed by Los Angeles County to sell the data on a per parcel basis. Generally, the price is between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per parcel plus a set up charge. The County to date has not been willing to provide any free or discounted parcel data to other public agencies. In fact, other County Departments must pay the Assessor for the data. In short, many valuable government park and open space efforts are stymied or done with poor efficiency because of the lack of parcel data. RMC staff is checking to see what latitude the County has to provide portions of the data to other agencies within the constraints of the two franchise agreements. Assuming that adequate latitude exists, the Green Visions project is preparing a proposal to request substantial but limited use of the parcel data at no cost from the County. That proposal will spell out the vast public benefits of making the data available to a limited set of agencies. The current plan would be that the data would be only available to the RMC, MRCA and USC staff that is working on the Green Visions project.

The Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority, the JPA between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the City of Santa Clarita, recently adopted such a support position.