

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: June 7, 2007

SUBJECT: Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution supporting the Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution supporting the Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District.

Background: The City Council of the City of Santa Clarita (the City) is undertaking proceedings pursuant to the provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, being Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code (commencing with Section 22500) and in accordance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution and the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (commencing with Section 53750 of the California Government Code) to form an assessment district to be titled the "City of Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District."

The Open Space Preservation District will expand the City's existing Open Space, Park and Parkland Program to acquire, improve and maintain additional open space in and around the City, including the Santa Clara River Watershed, as well as develop trail systems, and preserve wildlife corridors.

After City Council approval of the balloting proceedings on May 25, 2007, ballots were mailed to property owners in the City asking if they would support an annual assessment of \$25.00 for this purpose. A 45 day balloting period will precede a public hearing on July 10, 2007.

If the City of Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District is approved by the property owners, it will further the City and Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority's mutual goals to preserve and protect open space and create parkland in and around the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.