

# WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23, 2016

To: The Governing Board Members

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

Subject: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a) application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire park and natural lands in the Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor east of Colima Road; b) entering into a project agreement for funds from 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14); and c) approval of adoption of a youth employment plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing: a) application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire park and natural lands in the Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor east of Colima Road for the amount of \$1,000,000; b) entering into a project agreement for funds from 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14); and c) approval of adoption of a youth employment plan.

Background: On November 13, 2013 the Governing Board adopted two resolutions authorizing application for approximately \$8,000,000 in Proposition A funds. One application was to acquire Puente-Chino Hills properties in Los Angeles County east of the 57 freeway. The second application was to acquire properties on the north slope of the Puente Hills in the Rowland Heights area. Staff submitted applications to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) for both projects. The funding source is 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14) which is \$10 million reserved for the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) in the 1996 measure. Earlier this year staff met with the 4th District Supervisor and his staff to address the parameters of possible acquisitions. The consensus was that the most affordable and probable acquisitions are located west of the 57 freeway. The WCCA Proposition A funding can only be used east of Colima Road. Those two roads form the east-west book ends of this grant proposal. This summer the Supervisor's office requested that the District proceed towards a Board of Supervisors action to authorize a \$1,000,000 Proposition A grant to WCCA using Section 3(b)(14) funds.

As the District staff prepared its Board Letter, it noticed that the 2013 WCCA resolution for west of the 57 freeway did not include the mandatory clause for the approval of a Youth Employment Plan. A revised or new WCCA resolution was required to move forward. The District staff needs the resolution in a short time

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frame in order for the Board of Supervisor to consider the item prior to 2017. Rather than just amend that 2013 resolution, staff is bringing forward a fresh resolution that includes additional properties more in the westward direction of Colima Road. Please see the attached map for the proposed WCCA acquisition area. The Youth Employment Plan language is included in the attached draft resolution. However, there is no such actual employment to include in the Youth Employment Plan for a pure acquisition project--such as the proposed project. The proposed resolution provides for flexibility and is more up to date in several respects. Additional details can be worked out between staff and the District staff.

There will still be \$9,000,000 in 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14) that remains unallocated following this proposal.