



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 7, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing the amended Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, City of Santa Clarita, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize entering into the amended Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, City of Santa Clarita, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: The Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) is the joint powers agency between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the City of Santa Clarita. SCWRCA became the owner of 442 acres in Whitney Canyon in 2002 after years of effort to acquire the ranch for parkland. An Memorandum of Understanding/ cooperative management agreement was approved by all the parties to provide for park management by MRCA personnel once the Whitney Canyon property was acquired. The Cooperative Mangement Agreement delineates the property management duties and responsibilities by the MRCA, Conservancy, the City, and SCWRCA. All the partners have cooperated and assisted each other in land acquisition planning, park management, public use, and resource protection activities in the Santa Clarita area.

The original term of the agreement has expired. The revised agreement is attached. It provides for a renewable ten year term, and also provides that the City of Santa Clarita may contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for park management services on other open space areas acquired by the City or the Santa Clarita Watershed Authority. The revised MOU was reviewed by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority at its June 24th meeting, approved by the Conservancy at its June 28 meeting, and will also be considered for approval by the City at a near future City Council meeting.