

**FULL TEXT OF BALLOT PROPOSITION GG
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY SPECIAL TAX
FOR FIRE PREVENTION, WILDLIFE CORRIDOR AND OPEN SPACE PROTECTION**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (“MRCA”) is a local park agency whose members include the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, that is responsible for maintaining and improving open space, parkland and wildlife corridors and for providing fire protection and safety and security patrols within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone. The MRCA currently maintains over 1,600 acres of local open space, parkland and wildlife corridors, in the Santa Monica Mountains west of Griffith Park and east of Interstate 405 (the “405 Freeway”), (the “East Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills Area” or the “Area”).

Unlike most public agencies, the MRCA and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy do not receive permanent ongoing funding from local or state taxes. A major challenge the MRCA currently faces is that its revenues have decreased while costs to protect and maintain parks and open space have increased due to population growth and the increased use of public open space and parklands. Additional park maintenance and expanded park ranger safety and security patrols are needed to handle the increased use of MRCA lands. Moreover, due to the severe five-year drought, the fire risk and fire danger in the East Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills Area is significantly higher. The MRCA desires to expand and improve fire safety patrols, including high fire alert patrols, and fire prevention services such as extensive brush clearing on MRCA lands to reduce and eliminate fire hazards.

The Santa Monica Mountains are home to many different plant and animal species. As human populations grow, it is critical that the wildlife corridors between the 405 Freeway and Griffith Park are permanently protected. These wildlife corridors are necessary to ensure mountain lions, deer and other remaining large animals can survive in the Area. The MRCA is the only public agency that actively acquires and maintains open space and conservation easements for wildlife corridors in this Area. The MRCA also acquires and protects remaining open space lands from development in the Area.

Therefore, in order to continue to preserve and maintain extensive open space, parkland, wildlife corridors, natural habitats, lands, waters, and related facilities; and to protect water quality and provide park ranger safety and security patrols and improve fire protection and prevention services including brush clearing, the MRCA is proposing a local special tax within a community facilities district located in a designated portion of the Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills located west of Griffith Park and east of Interstate 405, as shown on the map accompanying this proposition (the “East Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills Area”).

The summary of the proposed ballot proposition is:

To maintain and conserve local open space, wildlife corridors, and parklands; acquire and protect additional lands from development; improve fire prevention including high fire alert patrols and brush clearing; protect water quality in local creeks; and increase park ranger safety patrols; shall Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority implement a \$35 special tax for ten years only, providing \$995,000 annually with all funds spent locally in the Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills east of 405 freeway, and requiring independent citizen oversight audits?

Developed parcels subject to the special tax are those parcels that appear on the annual secured Los Angeles County property tax rolls, and that have been improved for residential, commercial or other purposes. Unimproved parcels within the East Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills Area shall be exempt from the special tax.

If approved by the voters, the special tax will be used for the purposes of maintaining, improving, servicing, protecting, and preserving open space, parkland, wildlife corridors, natural habitats, lands, waters, and facilities owned or managed by the MRCA within the East Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills Area; for financing the acquisition of additional lands and protection of such lands from development in the East Santa Monica Mountains / Hollywood Hills Area; park ranger safety and security patrols and services; and fire prevention and fire protection services ("Services and Facilities"); and paying any administrative or incidental expenses thereto, including any costs related to the collection or use of the special tax. The Services and Facilities include, but are not limited to, the protection of water quality, the reduction of the risk of wildfires, park ranger safety and security services, and the collection and accumulation of reserves for the aforementioned purposes.

The special tax revenues shall be deposited into a separate account for exclusive use by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, in accordance with Government Code Section 50075.1, and shall be expended by the MRCA according to a plan developed annually by the MRCA's staff and approved and adopted by the MRCA's Board of Directors. A citizens' oversight committee appointed by the Board will review and report annually on the expenditure of the special tax revenues.

The MRCA will submit an annual report to its Board of Directors, which includes the amount of special tax revenues collected and expended, and fully complies with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 50075 et seq.

ABBREVIATED TEXT OF THE BALLOT PROPOSITION GG

The question submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

To maintain and conserve local open space, wildlife corridors, and parklands; acquire and protect additional lands from development; improve fire prevention including high fire alert patrols and brush clearing; protect water quality in local creeks; and increase park ranger safety patrols; shall Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority implement a \$35 special tax for ten years only, providing \$995,000 annually with all funds spent locally in the Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills east of 405 freeway, and requiring independent citizen oversight audits?

MAP OF THE EAST SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS / HOLLYWOOD HILLS AREA PROPOSED FOR THE SPECIAL TAX

