# SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

**TO:** Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-B**

**FROM:** Steve Mack, General Manager

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**Meeting Date: September 7, 2017**

**SUBJECT: MONTE RIO RECREATION AND PARKS DISTRICT PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE DISTRICT SURPLUS LANDS FOR REGIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive a presentation from the General Manager on the Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District's proposal to purchase District surplus lands for inclusion in a regional trails system project, and provide direction to staff.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** District lands or easements could be sold at fair market value bringing revenue to the District.

**DISCUSSION:**

The District owns several large parcels in the hills behind the Monte Rio Terraces. One of these parcels contains two District water tanks and is required for ongoing District operations. The others have been declared unneeded for District operations through the District's Surplus Lands Strategy which was approved in 2010. The Monte Rio Recreation and Parks District has for some time expressed interest in incorporating these District parcels in a regional trails system that could provide hiking and walking access and connections to other open spaces and ultimately allow access to the coast through lands owned by other entities, including State Parks. Discussion of this idea has waned in recent years but has been recently revived and a meeting on this subject was held at the District on August 21. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins has been very involved in this effort.

The current concept is that MRRPD and the County, working with the Open Space District, will spearhead the proposal. The details of how this will happen are still being worked on. Some components involving the District include:

- Parcels would be purchased at fair market value to be determined by appraisals directed by the Open Space District.
- The parcel that includes the District's water tanks would need to stay in District ownership, or the parcel could be sold with the District retaining an easement for its operational and capital needs.

The next step appears to be a meeting with the Open Space District, MRRPD, District staff and appropriate County staff. I will keep the Board apprised of any developments.