



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: October 6, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(c): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the Soka University acquisition (APNs 4455-015-002, 4455-016-032,-033, 4455-028-043, 4455-033-003, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010, 011, 018, 021, 022, 023, 026, 4455-034-001, 4455-035-001, 4455-040-007, 010), unincorporated Calabasas area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting grants from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the Soka University acquisition (APNs 4455-015-002, 4455-016-032,-033, 4455-028-043, 4455-033-003, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010, 011, 018, 021, 022, 023, 026, 4455-034-001, 4455-035-001, 4455-040-007, 010), unincorporated Calabasas area.

Background: At its September 27, 2004 meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized grants to the MRCA of Proposition 40 and Proposition 50 funds for the Soka University acquisition, in amounts not to exceed \$6,000,000 and \$4,000,000, respectively. The Conservancy previously granted \$200,000.00 to MRCA in August 2004 for project planning and design services for this acquisition. The MRCA submitted grant applications to the Conservancy for funding from Proposition 40 and 50 funds.

The acquisition would protect significant land and water resources because the subject 588 acres is a key wildlife linkage, contains core habitat, and is a significant scenic resource. The property consists of twenty tax parcels and is bounded by Malibu Creek State Park and Las Virgenes Road to the west, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) open space and privately-owned land to the south, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)-owned Las Virgenes View Park and privately-owned land to the north, and privately-owned land to the east.

The MRCA has obtained an appraisal for Soka University and submitted it to the

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State Department of General Services for review. MRCA staff are working with several potential grantors to secure the total purchase price for the property, including the Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and State Coastal Conservancy. The total amount being requested from the potential grantors is subject to approval of fair market value by Department of General Services and will be used solely for acquisition. The requested Proposition 40 and 50 funds are necessary to complete the purchase.

The proposed acquisition is consistent with Article 5, Land, Air, and Water Conservation, Section 5096.650(b) of Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002; is consistent with the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) Chapter 10, Section 79570(c); and is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Draft grant agreements and the applications to the Conservancy are attached.