



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: September 8, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 45 acres (APNS 4455-012-002, 4455-012-003 and 4455-014-001) in Stokes Canyon using in lieu mitigation funds, unincorporated Los Angeles county**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 45 acres (APNS 4455-012-002, 4455-012-003 and 4455-014-001) in Stokes Canyon using in lieu mitigation funds, unincorporated Los Angeles county .

Background: Currently, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) participate in "In-Lieu Fee" programs with the California Department of Fish and Game, United States Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Quality Control Board, in which mitigation is required from third parties to offset impacts to riparian habitat. Third parties provide funding to the MRCA and/or Conservancy for acquisition of land with preservation value and for habitat restoration to meet mitigation obligations.

The MRCA currently has in lieu mitigation funds that are required to be used for the purchase of riparian acreage in Los Angeles County. The parcels in Stokes Canyon have a high ratio of riparian habitat. In addition, the parcels are located in a habitat corridor between Malibu Creek State Park and Topanga State Park, increasing the ecological importance of the parcels.

Therefore it is recommended these parcels be acquired using in lieu mitigation funds.