



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: November 2, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing 1) entering into an agreement with County of Los Angeles Waterworks District 29 to acquire approximately 20 acres of Los Angeles County-owned surplus real property (APN 4438-032-900) in the Cold Creek and Topanga Creek watersheds, 2) acceptance of public and private funds to make said acquisition, and 3) entering into an agreement for the property to be managed by the Mountains Restoration Trust.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing 1) entering into an agreement with County of Los Angeles Waterworks District 29 to acquire approximately 20 acres of Los Angeles County-owned surplus real property (APN 4438-032-900) in the Cold Creek and Topanga Creek watersheds, 2) acceptance of public and private funds to make said acquisition, and 3) entering into an agreement for the property to be managed by the Mountains Restoration Trust.

Background: Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 has agreed to sell a key surplus property in the Cold Creek watershed of the central Santa Monica Mountains to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy). The property is accessible from a popular fire road that extends east from the intersection of Schueren and Stunt roads near the watershed divide between Cold and Las Flores Canyons.

The Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) has grant money to pay for the property at the \$27,500 price set by the District pursuant to Section 33207 of the Public Resources Code. Because time is a factor with MRT's funding source, allowing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to be the Conservancy's assignee to acquire the property is more practical.

At its October 24, 2005 meeting, the Conservancy adopted a resolution authorizing exercise of first right of refusal pursuant to Section 33207 of the Public Resources Code to acquire the subject approximately 20 acres of Los Angeles County-owned

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surplus real property known as Waterworks District No. 29 (APN 4438-032-900). Secondly, it authorized waiving the Conservancy's first right of refusal contingent upon the County entering into an agreement to sell the property to MRCA at the same \$27,500 price set by the District. The District appears prepared to enter into such an agreement.

An agreement will be prepared between MRCA and MRT to clarify the responsibilities of MRT with respect to managing the property. MRT manages over 1,000 acres of the Cold Creek Preserve. MRT currently manages three MRCA-owned properties in the Cold Creek watershed under simple management agreements. These three properties are within the Cold Creek Preserve. Staff does not anticipate any costs for MRCA related to management of the property.