



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: June 1, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation of 40 acres (a portion of APN 4453-003-002) in upper Las Flores Canyon along Scheuren Road, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation of 40 acres (a portion of APN 4453-003-002) in upper Las Flores Canyon along Schueren Road in unincorporated Malibu area.

Background: A large landowner in the Santa Monica Mountains recently approached staff with an offer to donate the subject 40-acre parcel in the uppermost western headwaters of Las Flores Canyon. On its northern side, the property abuts a 110-acre property owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Schueren Road bisects the site. Los Angeles County owns a 60-foot-wide road easement for Schueren Road. The net acreage of the donation parcel is 38.7 acres. A USGS blueline tributary crosses the northeastern corner of the property. The property is steeply sloped with dense chaparral vegetation cover.

The parcel contains core habitat conditions, some riparian vegetation, and provides an important portion of a north-south habitat linkage between Las Flores and Cold Creek Canyons. It also contributes to east-west wildlife movement along the south-facing slope of the Santa Monica Mountains. It is listed as "Proposed Easement Area" on the National Park Service's *Land Protection Plan*.

Both staff and the landowner's GIS specialists have done analyses on the required fuel modification. Aerial photos show that two houses on the southern boundary force some level of fuel modification. The owner claims that all that fuel modification has been voluntarily done by these two adjacent homeowners. Under a best case scenario that arrangement will remain. Under a worse case scenario, the amount of fuel modification would not exceed 0.75 acres. Even under this scenario staff recommends acceptance of the donation to foster a good relationship with this owner of over 2,500 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains.

