



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 2, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a) acceptance of an approximately 0.12-acre donation (APN 5556-022-008), b) transfer of property to a private party, and c) retention of a conservation easement over the entire parcel, Sunset Plaza area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a) acceptance of an approximately 0.12-acre donation (APN 5556-022-008), b) transfer of property to an adjacent private party, and c) retention of a conservation easement over the entire parcel, Sunset Plaza area.

Background: The owner of APN 5556-022-008 contacted staff to donate the parcel. The parcel is located near Crisler Way and Marmont Avenue. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) owns a small parcel just east of the subject parcel, and further east is a tax defaulted parcel that staff is working on acquiring with 100 percent funding from the surrounding community.

The 0.12-acre donation requires too much brushing to warrant acceptance in fee simple. Staff contacted the owner of the property that abuts the subject parcel to inquire the possibility of contributing to the maintenance of the subject parcel. Instead, that owner is willing to accept the subject parcel under her ownership with a conservation easement over the entire parcel retained by the MRCA. This is an interesting, low cost method to protect land, help adjacent property owners, and provide a tax deduction to land donors.

The parcel is located on a hillside that contributes to wildlife habitat and movement. A field inspection of the parcel will not be necessary since the transfer of the subject parcel to the private party will be immediate after accepting the donation.