



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(n): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of public and private funds and the acquisition of parcels in a Ventura County Chapter 8 Agreement using public, private and in-lieu mitigation funds, north and south Simi Hills, Box Canyon, northern Moorpark, Oxnard plain, and Las Lajas Canyon, Ventura County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of public and private funds and the acquisition of parcels in a Ventura County Chapter 8 Agreement using public, private and in-lieu mitigation funds, north and south Simi Hills, Box Canyon, northern Moorpark, Oxnard plain, and Las Lajas Canyon, Ventura County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process. In this case, the Agreement is with Ventura County. This is the first time that the MRCA has entered into a Chapter 8 Agreement with Ventura County since the early 1990's to acquire a Chivos Canyon and a Chatsworth Lake Manor property.

The County has provided an Agreement to sign. The Agreement is not numbered, but contains 9 parcels totaling 30.377 acres. In order for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector to finalize these agreements, the MRCA must provide a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the parcels.

The table below includes the parcels, sizes, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. The cost estimate is projected through October 2008. Unfortunately, the cost of the parcels increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. A brief description of the parcel follows along with attached aerial photograph with the parcel boundaries.

Ventura County Chapter 8 Agreement

APN	Acreage	Location	Price
220-0-022-185	2.37	Oxnard, park area between Emerson Ave. and San Mateo Place	\$6,200
502-0-031-125	0.419	farm area, Buena Vista St., north Moorpark.	\$1,700
620-0-210-065	0.11	Las Lajas Canyon Rd., just west of Rocky Peak park	\$1,400
646-0-131-020	0.265	small lot subdivision, north slope Simi hills between Yosemite and Kuehner	\$5,100
646-0-131-030	0.152	small lot subdivision, north slope Simi hills between Yosemite and Kuehner	\$5,500
646-0-143-020	0.071	small lot subdivision, north slope Simi hills between Yosemite and Kuehner	\$1,300
646-0-143-030	0.183	small lot subdivision, north slope Simi hills between Yosemite and Kuehner	\$7,900
648-0-154-050	0.12	N. of Mesa Drive, Box Canyon area	\$2,000
680-0-052-475	26.687	near Via Colinas and Thousand Oaks Blvd.	\$10,200
Totals	30.377		\$41,300

Oxnard

This parcel is part of the existing Lemonwood Park and hopefully can be remedied by the City of Oxnard. It abuts a drainage channel.

Moorpark

This parcel is part of a working ranch in the Santa Susana Mountains. It would be an excellent educational facility.

Las Lajas Creek

This parcel abuts dirt Las Lajas Canyon Road in small lot subdivision behind the Las Lajas Dam. Acquisition of this parcel would aid in protection from future development in this area near Rocky Peak Park.

North Simi Hills

These four contiguous parcels are in a rural area on the outskirts of Simi Valley near Kuehner Drive. Concerned neighbors have expressed an interest in helping the MRCA to acquire the parcels, and to aid in the maintenance of the parcels. The parcels contain structures, but also contain numerous oak trees. Would make an excellent educational facility.

Box Canyon

This parcel is on the south slope of Chatsworth Peak. This property is part of the core habitat of the Simi Hills.

South Simi Hills

This large parcel is adjacent to a residential neighborhood in Westlake Village. Protection of this parcel may be achieved by easement, in which case we can drop it. A V-ditch courses through the property.