



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement and associated maintenance funding, Live Oak Trails development, City of La Verne, Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement and associated maintenance funding, Live Oak Trails development, City of La Verne, Los Angeles County.

Background: Live Oak Trails is an approved development near San Dimas reservoir at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Live Oak Trails, LLC has requested the MRCA to be the grantee of a conservation easement as part of their mitigation requirements. As part of a new residential development, impacts were made to federal jurisdictional waters in the City of La Verne. Regulatory agencies require mitigation to make up for these impacts. The permits required 0.63 acres of restoration, and up to 3 acres of conservation easement dedication.

Staff has completed negotiations for the restoration aspect of the mitigation, but the conservation easement portion is presently addressed.

It is often beneficial for the MRCA to accept land dedications that are outside of its general acquisition area. By accepting this conservation easement, the MRCA can maintain an open space area with minimal effort. The Homeowner's Association will be responsible for the brushing requirements of the area, and more importantly, a conservation easement poses no liability.

Acceptance of the conservation easement will require an endowment to ensure that the MRCA can properly maintain and monitor this area. The endowment is a condition of acceptance. The total for this endowment is still being negotiated. It will range between \$5,000 to \$15,000 depending on the actual easement size. A portion of this funding would cover legal fees.