



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 4, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 1.6-acre mitigation project conservation easement along Hasley Canyon Creek on APNs 3247-032-035 and 3247-032-051 and acceptance of processing fee, Hasley Canyon, unincorporated Santa Clarita area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 1.6-acre mitigation project conservation easement along Hasley Canyon Creek on APNs 3247-032-035 and 3247-032-051 in unincorporated Santa Clarita, and acceptance of a processing fee from the project applicant, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.

Background: The proposed 1.6-acre conservation easement is located on two parcels on the north side of Hasley Canyon Road, approximately 1.5 miles west of the I-5 freeway and 0.35 miles east of Sloan Canyon Road in Val Verde (see attached maps). Both the California Department of Fish and Game and the Army Corps of Engineers have requested that the MRCA accept this conservation easement due to the MRCA's unique function as a public agency that accepts such dedications. The property owner will pay the necessary staff costs associated with the acceptance of the conservation easement in addition to the cost of the title report. The property owner is financially responsible for all costs related to the restoration project on the subject conservation easement as a requirement of their permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (see attachment). There is no MRCA obligation to clear brush on this property.

The subject restoration site currently supports, or has supported in the past, a southern cottonwood-willow riparian woodland and sage scrub habitat. The major goals of the subject restoration project, as stated in the 2002 Hasley Canyon Project: Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan, include restoring riparian and native upland vegetation, rehabilitating existing degraded riparian habitat along Hasley Canyon Creek, and enhancing Hasley Canyon Creek's function as a wildlife corridor.