



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 3, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acquisition of APN 2826-025-007 in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2664, and acceptance of funds from Caltrans or Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to complete acquisition, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acquisition of APN 2826-025-007 in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2664, and acceptance of funds from Caltrans or Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to complete acquisition, unincorporated Los Angeles 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.

This parcel, APN 2826-025-007 was offered for \$130,000 at the 2009B public auction, a price which far exceeded the appraised value. It was not purchased at the open auction. MRCA staff contacted the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collectors office in Fall 2009 regarding this parcel, and arranged an Agreement to purchase it at a price which was less than half of the back taxes owed.

Caltrans has agreed to provide the full \$60,000 plus fees for this parcel, as part of a 4(f) agreement with the SMMC for their HOV lane project (I-5 HOV/Truck Lanes Project. SR-14 to Parker Road) adjacent to this parcel. It is high quality habitat available at no cost to the MRCA. The parcel abuts the 4,000 acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park and provides important viewshed in the Newhall Pass.