



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** May 12, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement, not to exceed 11 acres, on APN 099-0-080-035, along the Santa Clara River, and acceptance of processing fee from applicant, Santa Paula, Ventura County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement, not to exceed 11 acres, on APN 099-0-080-035 (since changed to APN 099-0-080-255), along the Santa Clara River, and acceptance of processing fee from applicant, Santa Paula, Ventura County.

Background: The subject parcel has undergone a lot split into APNs 099-0-080-255 and 265. The proposed conservation easement will be located on 099-0-080-255.

The subject property on which the proposed 10.9-acre mitigation project conservation easement is located, is owned by and located in the City of Santa Paula, approximately 0.30 miles southwest of the Santa Paula Freeway (Highway 126). The property is bounded by Todd Lane on the east. The proposed conservation easement will border the north bank of the Santa Clara River. (See attached maps). The California Department of Fish and Game has requested that the MRCA accept this conservation easement due to the MRCA's unique function as a public agency that accepts such dedications. The applicant will pay the necessary processing fee associated with the acceptance of the conservation easement in addition to the cost of the title report. The applicant is financially responsible for all costs related to the restoration project on the subject conservation easement. There is no MRCA obligation to clear brush on this property.

The goals of the subject restoration project, as stated in the prospectus provided by the applicant's consultants, are "to create and restore/enhance an area currently containing a dense stand of giant reed and disturbed southern willow scrub to native riparian habitat and restore native wildlife diversity within the City-owned parcel."

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The restoration plan includes a Habitat Enhancement and Monitoring Plan for an existing population of southwestern pond turtles, as well as a survey program for nesting least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher, both currently found onsite.