



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Ramirez Canyon Park  
5810 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265  
Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Governing Board  
  
**FROM:** Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer  
**DATE:** May 12, 2010

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item V(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area F) funds to acquire APNs 2076-004-026, 033, and 034 comprised of approximately 1.5 acres in Woodland Hills, City of Los Angeles**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area F) funds to acquire APNs 2076-004-026, 033, and 034 comprised of approximately 1.5 acres in Woodland Hills.

Background: The three contiguous subject parcels, totaling 1.5 acres, are located in the core of Assessment District Acquisition Area F at the intersection of the unimproved San Sebastian Drive and the unimproved southerly portion of Calderon Road (see attached map).

Dirt San Sebastian Drive follows a prominent ridge line which offers 270-degree views of the Cold Creek watershed to the west, sweeping through the Simi Hills, the southern Los Padres National Forest, Santa Susana Mountains, the Sierra Pelona mountain range, to the San Gabriel Mountains in the east. Widespread views of this prominent ridge line would be ruined if the subject lots were developed.

The subject properties are the home of the most significant woodland area in this habitat block, including Valley oak. This wooded area provides natural roosting and nesting trees for local raptors. During one site visit, staff observed a California gopher snake traversing San Sebastian Drive to enter the subject property. The trees and shade make this property a great neighborhood open space destination. The proposed use for the site is as immediate public open space, with foot access from San Sebastian Drive and Calderon Road. San Sebastian drive and Calderon Road are both paper public streets that are now widely used as walking trails. Staff expects to be able to add to this area in the near future at low-cost, or through donations and dedications. The only fuel modification the MRCA would be responsible for on these parcels is light annual grassland associated with the few homes at the base of the hillside to the east.

Agenda Item V(g)  
May 12, 2010  
Page 2

The District No. 2 Citizens Oversight Committee approved the acquisition in August of 2004. This portion of Area F has not received significant funding. This acquisition will help distribute the special benefit to the more westerly portion of Area F.

Price and terms will be discussed in closed session.