



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: July 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of in-lieu mitigation fee funds to acquire 9.56 acres (APN 2552-002-006) in the Big Tujunga Wash, City of Los Angeles

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of in-lieu mitigation fee funds to acquire a 9.56-acre parcel, APN 2552-002-006, located in the Big Tujunga Wash.

Background: The subject 9.56-acre parcel is located in the Big Tujunga Wash, adjacent to Big Tujunga Canyon Road, approximately 0.80 miles north of its intersection with the paved portion of Mount Gleason Avenue (see attached maps). Most of the property is situated in the active wash or on steep terrain located to the west. The parcel abuts Los Angeles City-owned open space to the south, and is bisected by a north-south hiking and equestrian trail easement that continues through the abutting parcel to the north. The parcel to the north is currently used for private materials and vehicle storage. This neighboring property is the only property between the subject parcel and the Angeles National Forest on the west side of Big Tujunga Canyon Road.

Big Tujunga Creek is the premier wash habitat in Los Angeles County. It is home to several sensitive species, including the Santa Anna sucker fish. The subject parcel is situated in a transition area between the constrained upper creek and lower broad wash area. If acquired by the MRCA it would become the northernmost end of a contiguous open space complex comprised of Los Angeles City open space, the Angeles National Forest, and a pending 276-acre open space dedication from the Angeles National Golf Club beginning at Foothill Boulevard.

The site probably supports year-round stream flow. Peak hydrological activity limits tree growth over much of the western portion of the parcel, and recent wildfire activity has resulted in much sedimentation and scouring of the wash. However, the eastern portion of the parcel, abutting Big Tujunga Canyon Road, is unscathed and supports mature cottonwood and willow trees. The flat portion of the site next to the road offers opportunities for parking, a future overlook, or restoration. Much of the

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site is in need of restoration, including the removal of large cement blocks (approximately the size of a small car), and the eradication of *Arundo donax*.

This property is one of a large cluster of parcels currently listed for sale by the owners. The owners are willing to sell this parcel individually.

Price and terms will be discussed in closed session.