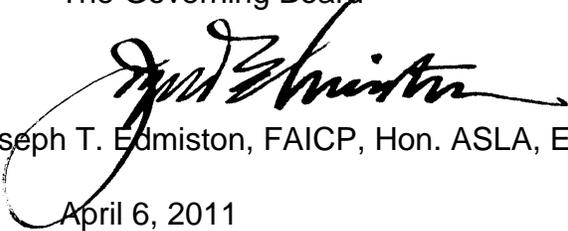




MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(m): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Caltrans Contribution Agreement, District Agreement No. 07-4903, to receive mitigation funds from the State Route 118 and Rocky Peak Road on and off-ramp project, Santa Susana Mountains, City of Simi Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into the above-referenced Caltrans Contribution Agreement in order that the MRCA receive mitigation funds from the State Route 118 and Rocky Peak Road on and off-ramp project in the Santa Susana Mountains, City of Simi Valley.

Background: The Conservancy commented on the California Environmental Quality Act documentation for Caltrans' proposed addition of a westbound off-ramp and an eastbound on-ramp at the Rocky Peak Road - 118 Freeway interchange in Simi Valley. Wildlife regularly uses the bridge at this location, and therefore mitigation is necessary to offset the impacts of altering the bridge. The Conservancy recommended land acquisition, for the purposes of habitat preservation and continued wildlife movement, as a form of mitigation, and Caltrans has agreed.

Under the subject agreement, the MRCA will be the recipient of the mitigation funds to be used for the acquisition of one or more specific parcels agreed on by Caltrans and MRCA staff. (Please see attached map.) The funds will be fronted to the MRCA. These funds must be used for property acquisition, and may not be used for expenses, such as appraisals.