



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 9, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 4434-008-004 and 4434-007-002 totaling 42.83 acres in the Topanga Canyon watershed and acceptance of funds from Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 4434-008-004 and 4434-007-002 totaling 42.83 acres in the Topanga Canyon watershed and acceptance of funds from Los Angeles County.

Background: The two subject non-contiguous (950 feet apart) parcels are located in the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Topanga State Park, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts land. The larger 40.8-acre parcel is in the Garapito Canyon tributary and it abuts MRCA, National Park Service (NPS) and State Parks property on three sides. The smaller 1.98-acre parcel is located in the Santa Maria Canyon tributary watershed and does not abut any other public lands. Both properties contain high quality minimally disturbed core habitat.

The larger property has been on the NPS high priority acquisition list since the agency's first Land Protection plan was adopted. The smaller property includes an informal trail used by locals to hike from the Santa Maria Road area to the dirt Mulholland Drive corridor.

Staff had the properties appraised in February and has been talking with a representative family member for almost a year about a potential sale. Los Angeles County through Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office has authorized funding for the purchase. No funding from MRCA or other sources is proposed. No structures are located within 200 feet of either parcel.