

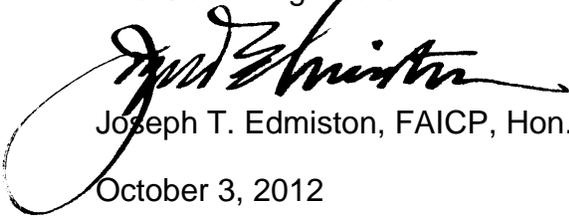


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing application for grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program for acquisition of Ramirez Canyon properties, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application for grant funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program for acquisition of two Ramirez Canyon properties APNs 4465-004-045 and 084.

Background: Ramirez and Escondido Canyons are premiere coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has long sought to secure east-west habitat and trail connections from the National Park Service's Zuma-Trancas Unit across Ramirez Canyon into the core of Escondido Canyon. The MRCA has successfully completed one such connection between Kanan Dume Road and the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park for the Coast Slope Trail via Ramirez Canyon Park. A second effort has been underway to the north since 2002. This northern east-west connection has superior terrain for regional wildlife movement and excellent grades and existing paved and dirt roads for trail connections.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has teamed up with the MRCA to submit a grant application to the State's Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program to acquire a 56-acre property (APN 4465-004-045) that is located 95 percent in Ramirez Canyon with a small portion edging over the Ramirez Ridge Trail into the Escondido Canyon watershed. The subject property is bordered on the north and south by MRCA properties. The narrow but paved Dume Canyon Motorway bisects the site and links the Ramirez Ridge Trail (extension of Ramera Motorway) with Kanan Dume Road. TPL has a long held option on the property. If the acquisition is completed the MRCA would be the fee simple property owner and management entity.