



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 12, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(I): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of approximately 280-acres of open space in Texas Canyon from Shappell Industries and acceptance of maintenance endowment, unincorporated Santa Clarita.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of approximately 280-acres of open space dedication in Texas Canyon and a maintenance endowment in the unincorporated Santa Clarita area.

Background: The proposed action would authorize the acceptance of an approximately 280-acre fee simple open space dedication in Texas Canyon, a tributary of the Santa Clara River. The attached figure shows the relationship of the subject property to the Angeles National Forest and Bouquet Canyon Road. The northern and eastern boundaries of the parcel abut the National Forest. Forest road number 5N14 courses through the site on the south side of the Texas Canyon creek floodplain leading to a network of official Forest Service roads that ultimately reach the MRCA's 4,000-plus-acre Ritter Ranch property. This whole portion of the National Forest is located within the Sierra Pelona mountain range. Cruzan Mesa is located approximately one and a half miles to the south.

The parcel contains three drainages (two of which are USGS blueline streams) and 31.83 acres of streambed area under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game. The remainder of the property is chaparral and oak woodland. The main channel of Texas Canyon supports a broad alluvial flood plain.

The principle management requirement of the site is to ensure that the Texas Canyon floodplain and associated road remain free of trash and larger scale dumping. Staff will have more information at the meeting about the condition and location of gates along unpaved Texas Canyon Road. A few ranch properties are located between the future open space dedication and Bouquet Canyon Road.

Agenda Item VI(I)
July 12, 2006
Page 2

Staff will also attempt to provide more information about any law enforcement issues at the meeting. The road provides a first class trail into the National Forest. According to landowner's representative, the National Forest Service was first offered the property and could not accept it because of budget issues. Ultimately the property may be transferred to the Forest Service, but it appears that the MRCA will assume management duty for a considerable period of time.

Staff has asked the landowner for a \$50,000 management endowment under that premise that interest earned on such an amount could completely fund a thorough monthly ranger patrol. The landowner's full concurrence on that amount will be known at the staff meeting. The property was acquired by the landowner as an in lieu fee stream bed mitigation property. There is definitely no brushing required, but occasional road maintenance may be an issue. It is possible that the Forest Service and some utilities would avail themselves to provide such a service.