



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire parcels in the area of the Agua Dulce Canyon Road and State Route 14 Interchange and using said Proposition A funding to acquire APNs 3212-004-010 and 014, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire parcels in the area of the Agua Dulce Canyon Road and State Route 14 Interchange and using said Proposition A funding to acquire APNs 3212-004-010 and 014.

Background: The two subject parcels under the same ownership are fundamental to the inter-mountain range habitat linkage between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Sierra Pelona Range. This habitat connection was documented as part of the South Coast Missing Linkages Project as the San Gabriel-Castaic connection. The parcels are also high priorities in Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The two parcels total 40.88 acres. An aerial photograph of the parcels and surrounding protected public open space is attached.

The proposed action is required to use 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District Proposition A funding for both the subject parcels and, in the future, for other nearby parcels addressed in the Project Agreement. The action also authorizes actual acquisition of the two parcels. The owner has signed an offer letter from the MRCA.

The property also creates a public ownership chain from Los Angeles County's Vasquez Rocks Park to the subject inter-mountain range habitat linkage. The Pacific Crest Trail is located just east of the subject property, and it could be connected to Agua Dulce Canyon Road. The MRCA and the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority closed on two parcels totaling 56 acres across Agua Dulce Canyon Road last month.