

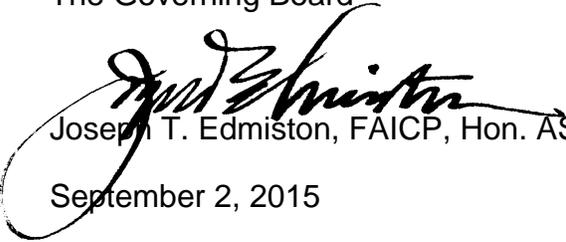


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 2, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) the addition of APNs 4380-011-012 and 4380-015-002, to the Final Engineer's Report for Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1; (b) and the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funds to acquire said parcels, approximately 0.58 acres combined, Beverly Glen Canyon, City of Los Angeles. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Steven Foonberg. Under consideration: price and terms. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) the addition of APNs 4380-011-012 and 4380-015-002, to the Final Engineer's Report for Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 Area B; (b) the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funds to acquire said parcels.

Background: The subject two parcels are an integral part of the 2.5-mile long, north-south oriented habitat block on the watershed divide between Beverly Glen and Stone Canyons south of Mulholland Drive. This habitat block is an irreplaceable component of the habitat linkage that connects Griffith Park to Topanga State Park. A high concentration of bobcats has been noted in this area.

The properties are located on the paper street portion of Oletha Lane, and are accessed from the western terminus of Oletha Lane, off of Beverly Glen Boulevard. Staff has inspected the properties for any hazards or issues. The attached figure shows how one of the subject parcels abuts a Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority-owned parcel to the north, and the close (within 300 feet) chains of multiple MRCA parcels to the south and southwest. Both are within fewer than 150 feet of the Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir's surrounding open space, owned by Department of Water and Power.

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Lots in Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 Area B often have steep price tags. Area B is bound by Muholland Drive, Sunset Boulevard, Coldwater Canyon Avenue, and the 405 Freeway. Several recent acquisitions in Area B have been on marginally-developable tax defaulted auction properties and processing donations mostly in the small lot subdivisions in the Beverly Glen watershed. Staff is always looking for affordable, developable properties with a strong contribution to the local ecosystem. The subject properties meet that objective, and staff and the owner have a signed purchase agreement.

Price and terms will be discussed in closed session.