

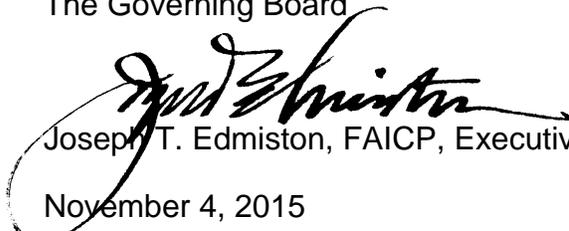


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: November 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of APN 2017-005-033 totaling approximately 18.43 acres in Box Canyon, Chatsworth, City of Los Angeles.**

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 for the acquisition of APN 2017-005-033 totaling approximately 18.43 acres in Box Canyon.

Background: The subject 18.43-acre parcel is located in Box Canyon within the eastern Simi Hills adjacent to the west of the Chatsworth Reservoir Nature Preserve. The parcel is part of a greenbelt between the Chatsworth Reservoir Nature Preserve and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) owned Sage Ranch Park.

Over 80 percent of the parcel lies within the Santa Susanna Mountains/Simi Hills Significant Ecological Area containing a rich complex of undisturbed mixed chaparral, sandstone outcrops, and southern willow scrub. The subject parcel also contains a portion of the long envisioned Rim of the Valley Trail, which presents trail linkage opportunities to connect Chatsworth Reservoir Nature Preserve and the MRCA-owned Sage Ranch Park.

The parcel is in urgent need of protection from the increasing pace of development within the immediate vicinity of the area. For this reason, the MRCA has applied in June of this year for Proposition A funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire the property from a willing seller. Since the application has been approved, staff recommends that the Governing Board both authorize entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and acquisition of the property.