



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board
FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer
DATE: September 18, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 35 acres (APN 2836-012-025) using in lieu fee mitigation funds, Santa Clarita.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 35 acres (APN 2836-012-025) using in lieu fee mitigation funds, City of Santa Clarita.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process.

The County has provided an Agreement to sign. Chapter 8 Agreement Number 2534 contains 1 parcel totaling 34.54 acres in the City of Santa Clarita. In order for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector to finalize these agreements, the MRCA must provide a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the parcel.

Agreement Number 2534

APN	Acreage	Location	Price
2836-012-025	34.54	Santa Clarita	\$62,871

The above table details the parcel, its size, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. This cost estimate does not include the fees that could be as much as \$3,000, bringing the total cost to the area of \$65,000. The cost estimate is projected through March 2007. Unfortunately, the cost of the parcel increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. That rate of increase is

approximately 1.5 percent per month. An attached aerial photograph shows the parcel boundaries.

The subject parcel is part of a large open space complex located east of the South Fork of the Santa Clara River and San Fernando Road. The southern boundary abuts City of Santa Clarita-owned open space and deed restricted Homeowners Association property. The property contains portions of two streams that terminate into the adjacent housing development. In addition there is good potential for habitat restoration.

There will be some brushing requirements on a small portion of this property as it abuts a residential area at the west side of the parcel.