



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 3, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing: (a) the acquisition of APNs 5580-018-022 and 023 (less than one acre) using Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funding, and (b) acceptance of private funding for said acquisition, Griffith Park adjacent, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing: (a) the acquisition of APNs 5580-018-022 and 023 (less than one acre) using Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funding, and (b) acceptance of private funding for said acquisition, Griffith Park adjacent, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The two subject lots have long been sought by staff, the council office and local residents to buffer Griffith Park, tie together Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) ownership, and protect a small unique dell with wooded north-facing slopes. The attached exhibit shows how one lot abuts MRCA parkland and the other is one lot away from a cluster of MRCA ownerships. Multiple offers using a small amount of Assessment District funding and a sizeable amount of private funding were rebuffed by the ownership earlier this year.

The ownership has had a change of heart and the residents negotiated a price with the Seller. Staff hopes to have a contingent offer letter sent no later July 29th. The MRCA contribution for both lots would be only \$7,500 dollars. The remainder would be private funding from residents. In a prior deal, the immediate community contributed an extra \$15,000 to the MRCA to cover many years of fuel modification.

Both of the subject lots are included in the Engineer's Report for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 and meet all of the necessary criteria. The opportunity to leverage a small amount of funding to pull over ten times more money into an acquisition is a rare and excellent opportunity to add to the Griffith Park core habitat area, the home of mountain lion P-22.