



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 1, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 4472-030-005, 4472-030-006, 4472-024-017, and 4472-024-018, comprising approximately 81 acres of property in the proximity of Decker Canyon Road, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) authorize acceptance of a donation of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 4472-030-005, 4472-030-006, 4472-024-017, and 4472-024-018, comprising approximately 81 acres of property in the proximity of Decker Canyon Road, Malibu.

### Background:

Staff was recently approached about the possible acquisition or donation of the subject property. The property is located directly adjacent to Charmlee Wilderness Park east of Decker Canyon Road and is in close proximity to the MRCA's recently acquired Leo A Carrillo and Edith Carrillo Memorial Park.

The property is largely unimproved and would be a valuable addition to the open space habitat in this particular area. There are also two significant drainage courses on the property which ultimately empty into the Santa Monica Bay. The proposed alignment of the Coastal Slope Trail is located on this property, which would allow the closure of this significant gap in the trail.

While the property is largely unimproved, there are currently several unpermitted trails and overlooks onsite. Los Angeles County has begun an enforcement action due to these unpermitted improvements, which may require remediation and restoration. Staff believes that the restoration of these lands and watersheds is eligible for grant funds from Proposition 1 or other similar measures, which would alleviate the direct financial exposure of the MRCA to complete this work.

Additionally, the donor has conditioned the donation on the MRCA's agreement to record a deed restriction to ensure that the property is preserved as open space in perpetuity and to name a trail and overlook after a member of the family.

**Fiscal Impact Analysis:**

As a donation, the acquisition of this property has very minimal fiscal impact for the MRCA. Beyond limited staff time and the cost of processing a preliminary title report and obtaining title insurance (generally no more than several hundred dollars), there would be no immediate fiscal impact. Staff does not anticipate that there will be significant public use of the property, which will also minimize the cost of maintaining and servicing this property.

Since this property, as stated above, does contain certain unauthorized improvements, there is the possibility that the MRCA will be responsible for the costs of restoration. However, also as stated above, staff believes that the bulk of the restoration will qualify for one or more grant programs from other public agency partners, which will lessen or eliminate the direct impact to the MRCA.