



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: November 1, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing: (a) a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds to acquire approximately 98 acres (APN 2061-015-005), and (b) acquisition of said parcel, City of Agoura Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing: (a) a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds to acquire approximately 98 acres (APN 2061-015-005), and (b) acquisition of said parcel.

Background: The subject 98-acre parcel is located directly adjacent to the central portion of the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor on the south side Agoura Road. It is bordered by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) property to the east and west. To the north it touches City of Agoura Hills open space. It has good public hiking access from several locations. A USGS blueline stream courses through the heart of the property and terminates in a rudimentary, shallow, soft bottom retention basin at a street culdesac. Upstream of the retention basin there is some limited riparian habitat restoration potential. The eastern extension of the Triangle Ranch property with a USGS blueline stream forms the long southern boundary of the subject parcel.

Staff is working with a broker for the property on a bargain sale. A price has not been determined. Staff is hoping that either Los Angeles County or the City of Agoura Hills will partner on the acquisition. The opportunity is so ripe that staff is seeking authorization to apply for a Proposition 1 grant not to exceed \$100,000 in hopes of cementing an acquisition deal prior to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's grant round closure on November 30, 2017. The wildlife corridor, core habitat, watershed (Medea and Liberty Canyon tributaries of Malibu Creek), 101 freeway viewshed, and trail resources on the subject property make it regionally significant. The property is included in the CDFW-approved Santa Monica Mountains to Sierra Madre Mountains Conceptual Area Protection Plan.