



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement to a non-profit entity over APN 5562-006-020 in Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement to a non-profit entity over APN 5562-006-020 in Laurel Canyon.

Background: In December of 2017 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) took title to the seventeen acre Laurel Canyon property known as the Let's Buy a Mountain project. As part of the community funding raising effort, the community leaders promised donors that they would do all they could to secure a conservation easement over the property after it was acquired. Typically the MRCA only grants conservation easements over its fee simple properties to satisfy requirements of the regulatory agencies. In this case, because the probably security of a conservation easement was instrumental to obtaining private donations, staff sees merit in granting a conservation easement to (most probably) a local non-profit organization. Possible organizations include Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) and the Laurel Canyon Land Trust. The MRCA is already recording a deed restriction which is a new requirement for Proposition A funded projects. In many ways, having a local non-profit to help serve as an added land guardian makes practical sense.

Multiple existing encroachments and a long established paved driveway that services two residences and a large power pole on the property will require some nuances to the proposed conservation easement. The allowed and restricted used will need to be customized around these and perhaps other issues. Staff will attempt to shift the burden of costs such as legal descriptions to the parties shepherding the granting of a conservation easement.