



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 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(n): Consideration of resolution authorizing: (a) entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APN 2061-015-005, approximately 98 acres, in the Liberty Canyon watershed; (b) adopting a youth employment plan, and (c) authorizing the use of mitigation funds for partial acquisition, City of Agoura Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing: (a) entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) to acquire APN 2061-015-005, approximately 98 acres, in the Liberty Canyon watershed; (b) adopting a youth employment plan, and (c) authorizing the use of mitigation funds for partial acquisition.

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. 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.

The large parcel 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 has reached an agreement with the Seller to acquire the property for \$200,000 with

a non-refundable deposit of \$5,000 once the property appraises for at least \$200,000. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy awarded the MRCA a Proposition 1 grant of \$110,000 at its December 2017 meeting. Of that amount \$10,000 is for appraisal, title, and staff time. The Third Supervisorial District has agreed to change the scope of another Liberty Canyon Proposition A grant to the MRCA to address this project. That change most likely will require a new vote from the Board of Supervisors. The property from that former grant was acquired by the MRCA as a no cost dedication. The new Proposition A grant will provide a minimum of \$50,000 towards the acquisition price. The remainder will be covered by mitigation funds restricted to Los Angeles County USGS blueline stream properties.

The proposed action also adopts a Youth Employment Plan as required by the District. In addition it authorizes recordation of a deed restricted covenant now also required by the District.