



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: March 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution (a) authorizing an application for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant funds for the Carbon Canyon 91 Acres Acquisition Project, (b) entering into a grant agreement, and (c) authorizing the acquisition of the parcels (APNs 4453-005-081, -082, -083, -084, -085, -086, and -087) in Carbon Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an application for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant funds for the Carbon Canyon 91 Acres Acquisition Project, entering into a grant agreement, and authorizing the acquisition of APNs 4453-005-081, 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, and 087 in Carbon Canyon.

Background: The EEMP is administered by the California Natural Resources Agency, and, as provided by California Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56 (Article XIX, Section 1, of the State Constitution), the Program authorizes the legislature to allocate up to \$7 million each fiscal year for grants to state, local and federal governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities. The "Grant Guidelines" require that the applicant submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body. Applications for funding in the 2017/18 fiscal year are due in June 2018.

The subject 91 acres composed of seven parcels lie in the heart of the Carbon Canyon watershed adjacent to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Mellone Preserve property. The property includes a blueline tributary of Carbon Creek and two sections of the Carbon Canyon Road trail. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is pursuing the subject property and would conduct the basic pre-acquisition efforts. TPL would also prepare the EEMP grant application for staff. The land is in the zone of the future Coastal Slope Trail for which a final alignment has not yet been determined.

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Because the MRCA is the optimal ownership agency for multiple reasons including grant application scoring, the MRCA would submit the application to the EEMP program. It may be that additional funding sources are needed, however, at this time the only project funding source is expected to be from EEMP. The property would not require any brushing and the maintenance of the unpaved Carbon Canyon Road as both a vehicle and foot trail is conducted by the up canyon owners (including MRCA) with nearly all having a 15-foot wide easement through the subject properties. The MRCA has field staff that live in a house on the adjacent Mellone Preserve property.