



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 4, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) acceptance of a conservation easement over approximately 78 acres of APNs 3210-014-024, -026, -033, and 3210-017-063, and (b) acceptance of associated monitoring funds, Bee Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over approximately 78 acres of APNs 3210-014-024, -026, -033, and 3210-017-063, and acceptance of associated monitoring funds, Bee Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) was contacted in March 2018 requesting that it accept a conservation easement and over a portion of the Bee Canyon Conservation Area, which was established as mitigation for jurisdictional impacts associated with the Sand Canyon Plaza Project, a mixed-use development consisting of up to 580 residential units impacting 1.56 total acres subject to Federal jurisdiction, and 3.60 total acres of area subject to State jurisdiction.

Approximately 78 acres of the Bee Canyon property have been set aside for preservation within a conservation easement as mitigation for impacts associated with the project.

The Bee Canyon property is located approximately 4.5 miles upstream of the Project site. The Bee Canyon wash bisects the site from north to south and several tributaries flow to the wash from east and west. The Conservation Area contains 12.6 acres of streams, a population of state and federally endangered slender horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), 1.89 acres of restoration and enhancement area, and 1.71 acres of holy leaf cherry mitigation area.

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A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) was produced by Dudek (environmental consultants), which outlines a suggested management strategy for off-site preservation as a component of the mitigation for project impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. and State.

MRCA will oversee the long term monitoring of the easement site after any on site duties are completed by the permittee. MRCA staff is reviewing the details of this monitoring task, as well as reviewing the potential cost requirements. A proposal for easement monitoring fees is not available at this time

Please see attached maps.