



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 4, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) acceptance of a conservation easement over approximately 324 acres within the approximately 1500 acres of Runkle Canyon Open Space proposed to be held by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and (b) acceptance of associated monitoring funds, Runkle Canyon, Simi Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over approximately 324 acres within the approximately 1500 acres of Runkle Canyon Open Space proposed to be held by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and acceptance of associated monitoring funds, Runkle Canyon, Simi Valley.

Background: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD) contacted Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requesting that the MRCA be the grantee of conservation easement over a portion of Runkle Canyon in Simi Valley.

A housing tract in Simi Valley is currently in development. As part of the regulatory requirements to mitigate for impacts, a 1,500 acre portion of open space is to be acquired by RSRPD as Runkle Canyon Open Space. Of this 1,500 acres, a 324 acre portion is to be designated as a conservation easement held by a third party.

The MRCA has been sought as grantee of this easement. On site habitat mitigation has occurred over portions of the easement. In addition to accepting the easement MRCA would assume minor monitoring duties to ensure that the mitigation on the easement remains intact.

MRCA staff is reviewing the details of this monitoring tasks, as well as reviewing the potential cost requirements. A proposal for easement monitoring fees is not available at this time.

Please see attached maps.