



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 4, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing Los Angeles Fire Department fuel break maintenance work on MRCA parkland within the City of Los Angeles west of the 405 Freeway, including West Mandeville Fire Road area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Los Angeles City Fire Department to conduct refurbishment of old fuelbreaks in MRCA parkland west of the 405 Freeway.

Background: The Los Angeles City Fire Department has requested permission to refurbish a number of old existing firebreaks in the Santa Monica Mountains, particularly the areas of West Mandeville, Mount Saint Mary's, and Upper and Lower East Mandeville, and above Hoad Canyon (East Sepulveda Fire Road). They are contacting a number of landowners besides the MRCA, including the Getty Museum, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The fuelbreaks are separate from the system of fire roads in the mountains, although they may be coterminous in some places. Many areas may not have had any bulldozer maintenance work for twenty years or more, so native and non-native vegetation has reestablished (although they are still apparent as modified fuel zones from aerial observation). Staff has viewed the proposed area with the Fire Department. They propose scraping the old breaks to bare mineral earth, but shaping the work to avoid drainage or erosion issues, and leaving and trees *in situ*.

Staff suggests that the Fire Department otherwise provide additional notice to the adjacent homeowner organizations, bicycle groups, and other trail users to explain the project before work begins.