



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 2, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 funds to acquire one Rivas Canyon property in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2573, and the addition of said parcel to the Final Engineer's Report, Pacific Palisades.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 funds to acquire one Rivas Canyon property in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2573, and the addition of said parcel to the Final Engineer's Report, Pacific Palisades.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. This process is an essential component of the agency's efforts to increase the amount of protected open space in southern California. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process.

The County has provided an Agreement to sign. Chapter 8 Agreement Number 2573 contains five parcels totaling 1.02 acres in the City of Los Angeles. Only one of these parcels is the subject of this report. In order for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector to finalize these agreements, the MRCA must provide a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the parcels.

The table below shows the parcel, its size, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. The cost estimate is projected through December 2007. Unfortunately, the

cost of the parcels increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. That rate of increase is approximately 1.5 percent per month with an additional 18 percent annual fee. A brief description of each parcel, or cluster of parcels, follows along with attached aerial photographs with the parcel boundaries.

Agreement Number 2573

APN	Acreage	Location	Price
4422-033-014	0.30	Pacific Palisades	\$161,993
Totals	0.30		\$161,993

Pacific Palisades

The subject parcel is adjacent to Los Angeles City property, approximately 1000 feet west of Will Rodgers State Historical Park. The MRCA used Assessment District No. 2 funds to acquire a slightly smaller parcel located just to the east. The property supports high quality mixed chaparral vegetation. The parcel does not have street access. It could probably only be developed with ancillary structures such as a guest house or be used for landscaping or horticultural purposes. The viable acquisition sites in Area H are diminishing and the cost of the parcel is moderate on a per square foot basis.

The Citizens Oversight Committee is scheduled to consider acquisition of this parcel at their meeting on May 1, 2007.