



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(k): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 3.5-acre conservation easement over APN 2274-020-019 west of Oak Forest Canyon and Camino de la Cumbre, Sherman Oaks.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 3.5-acre conservation easement over APN 2274-020-019 west of Oak Forest Canyon and Camino de la Cumbre in Sherman Oaks.

Background: The subject three and one-half-acre parcel is located in the key north slope wildlife movement corridor in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains in Sherman Oaks. The attached figure shows how the parcel abuts a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy-owned parcel on its northern boundary and series of MRCA-owned 20-foot-wide strips leading down to Fossil Ridge Park. The Fornaldes property acquisition that is pending is located just off the map to the north. The property has significant ecological value and assures a protected habitat connection across numerous MRCA and Conservancy properties in this section of the wildlife corridor.

The owner pro-actively contacted staff and wants to donate a conservation easement. A conservation easement carries no inherent liability or maintenance obligations.