



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 6, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(p): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire tax defaulted parcels in the upper Santa Clara River watershed and the San Gabriel Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire tax defaulted parcels in the upper Santa Clara River watershed and the San Gabriel Mountains.

Background: An application is pending with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a \$150,000 grant of Proposition 12 funds to acquire tax defaulted parcels in the upper Santa Clara River watershed and the San Gabriel Mountains.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been acquiring tax defaulted properties through Chapter 8 Agreements in the northern portion of Los Angeles County since the passage of Proposition 12 in 2000. Those acquisitions have spanned from Chatsworth (Santa Susana Mountains) to the County-designated Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) in the southern portion of the Antelope Valley. Many of the acquisitions cost less than \$2,000 per acre. The bulk of the MRCA's acquisitions in the upper Santa Clara River watershed, San Gabriel Mountains and Sierra Pelona range have been via Chapter 8 Agreement. The funding has come through Los Angeles County Proposition A, in lieu mitigation fees, miscellaneous small contributions, and two small Proposition 12 grants from the Conservancy over six years ago. For example in June 2007 the MRCA is slated to acquire 240 acres via Chapter 8 Agreement across a wide swath of northern Los Angeles using over six funding sources.

With this June 2007 Chapter 8 Agreement payment, the MRCA will have no remaining mitigation funding to continue this important program. Furthermore, the

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Conservancy's Proposition 84 funding cannot be expended in the Santa Clara River watershed or in any area north of the San Gabriel Mountains ridgeline.

Acceptance of the proposed grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will allow this economical and successful northern Los Angeles County land acquisition program to continue. The MRCA has many properties pulled from the public auction that need a funding source to move forward with Chapter 8 Agreements. Staff will use the funds to leverage additional dollars from other sources to the maximum extent possible.