



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: June 6, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire APNs 2821-009-020 and 029 and the use of in lieu mitigation funds to acquire said parcels, Devil Canyon, unincorporated Chatsworth area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire APNs 2821-009-020 and 029 and the use of in lieu mitigation funds to acquire said parcels, Devil Canyon, unincorporated Chatsworth area.

Background: The two subject parcels abut the eastern boundary of Rocky Peak Park. APN 2821-009-020 is 53.33 acres and parcel 029 is 26.67 acres. Both parcels contain significant sections of the Devil Creek riparian corridor and are part of the core Santa Susana Mountains habitat. Both parcels also support oak woodland, grassland, and mixed coastal sage scrub/chaparral habitat. The Devil Canyon area is perhaps the most ecological significant watershed on the south slope of the Santa Susana Mountains. The subject parcels would help fill in the area between Michael D. Antonovich Park at Joughin Ranch and Rocky Peak Park. Together these parks form the largest block of protected land in the range.

The grant request to the Conservancy is for \$335,000 which will cover both the land cost, staff cost, and direct acquisition costs.

If additional funding is needed, or it is beneficial to use those funds, a restricted pot of Santa Susana Mountains in lieu mitigation acquisition funds can be applied to this project.

Price and terms can be discussed in close session.