



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Agenda Item V(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easement over portions of APN 2803-030-072 totaling approximately 5 acres, Santa Clarita.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easement over portions of APN 2803-030-072 totaling approximately 5-acres, Santa Clarita.

Background: As a condition of approval for the Soledad Circle Estates residential project, the City of Santa Clarita and Department of Fish and Game required off-site mitigation for impacts to biological resources. The mitigation site is located in the Santa Clara River on both sides of the Whites Canyon Road bridge. The two portions total approximately 5.00 acres.

The applicant is required to perform the off-site mitigation and ensure the preservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity. To accomplish this, the Department of Fish and Game is requiring the applicant to grant a conservation easement to the MRCA and fund ongoing maintenance and enforcement as needed. These expenses will be covered by a maintenance fund provided by the applicant. After the conservation easement is executed, the applicant will transfer fee ownership of the subject parcel to the City of Santa Clarita. The MRCA will be responsible for enforcement of the terms of the conservation easement and may be responsible for trash removal on the 5-acre site, subject to the terms of the agreement. The site is inaccessible by vehicle and therefore at minimal risk for dumping.

The amount to be paid by the applicant is dependent on the services to be provided by the MRCA and is anticipated to range from \$26,500 to \$41,500. This amount includes legal fees required to execute the easement.