



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 2, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(k): Consideration of resolution requesting that the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District add APNs 3210-001-004, 3210-002-007, 3210-004-004, 005, 008, 009, 010, 011, 013, 014, 3210-005-006, 007, 008, 027, 035, 040, 3210-006-005, 3210-008-021, 022, and 3210-010-001, totaling 1,017.47 acres, to Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202, augmenting said Project Agreement to increase grant amount, and authorizing acquisition of said parcels, Soledad Canyon area, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution requesting that the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District add APNs 3210-001-004, 3210-002-007, 3210-004-004, 005, 008, 009, 010, 011, 013, 014, 3210-005-006, 007, 008, 027, 035, 040, 3210-006-005, 3210-008-021, 022, and 3210-010-001, totaling 1,017.47 acres, to Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202, augmenting said Project Agreement to increase grant amount, and authorizing acquisition of said parcels in the Soledad Canyon area.

Background: Rio Dulce is a 1,017 acre holding of 20 lots, located east of Agua Dulce Road south of State Route 14. Staff participated in a Bay Area auction to purchase the parcels in 2007. MRCA was outbid and the parcels were purchased by Nominn, LLC. The situation has changed and now both the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) and the City of Santa Clarita are negotiating with Nominn, LLC to acquire the parcels. MRCA would be the likely fee owner.

RLC is the lead agency on the acquisition. They are working on a package to acquire the Nominn parcels plus 1,100 adjacent acres in Agua Dulce Canyon. The principal proposed funding is from the WCB, via their anticipated May 2011 meeting. Other funding falling into place is from the City of Santa Clarita and Proposition A.

To date, the MRCA used the subject Proposition A 5th Supervisorial District Excess Funds to acquire nine parcels totaling 82.71 acres. The scope of Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202 also included parcels that were never purchased because the owners

redeemed the back taxes. One such parcel that fell into this category was a 60 acre property that was available for approximately \$600,000. Four additional parcels, known as the Agua Dulce Rodda parcels, were subsequently added to the grant list by a separate action. These were purchased by the City of Santa Clarita with grant funds the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) granted to MRCA, thus keeping at least \$600,000 in the Project Agreement.

There is consensus among the relevant agencies that the Nominn acquisition is the best place to use the remaining Proposition A money to leverage substantial WCB funding. The proposed action adds those 20 parcels to the Project Agreement. However additional funding will be necessary from Proposition A. If the 5th Supervisorial District sees value in adding more Proposition A excess to the pot, this Board action officially makes that request.

This purchase would solve major legal access issues in the area. MRCA ownership of the Nominn parcels would finally allow legal access to the existing homes presently adjacent to these properties in Long Canyon without growth inducing impacts.