



# 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(I): Consideration of resolution amending MRCA Resolution No. 10-36 to authorize the use of In-Lieu Fee Mitigation funds for the acquisition of APN 2826-025-007 in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2664, Newhall Pass, Santa Clarita.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution amending Resolution No. 10-36 to authorize the use of In-Lieu Fee Mitigation funds for the acquisition of APN 2826-025-00,7 Newhall Pass.

Part of APN 2826-025-007 is a large old turnout along what used to be Highway 99, and is now Interstate 5. The parcel contains an exceptional high quality grove of sycamores. The MRCA has been trying to acquire it for approximately nine years. It was originally offered at public auction at the back taxes price of \$130,000, over 8 years ago. Staff has coordinated with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collectors office to bring the Chapter 8 Agreement price down to \$60,000 plus processing fees.

The parcel is 6.62 acres and abuts the MRCA Santa Clarita Woodlands Park property. Acquisition of this parcel would solve for an isolated private parcel within an ecologically and visually significant area. This heavily wooded parcel could also potentially be used for a future in-lieu fee restoration project.

The Board previously approved acquisition of this parcel at the March 3, 2010 meeting. However, that resolution (10-36) authorized a different funding source (Caltrans) than the one proposed here. That resolution is attached.

Caltrans may ultimately reimburse the MRCA if a sliver of SMMC land is necessary to widen the Gavin Canyon I-5 bridge.