



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution requesting transfer and acceptance of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy properties located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone in Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution requesting transfer and acceptance of eight Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy-owned properties totaling 459.29 acres located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone in Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) adopted Resolution No. 01-112 in September 2001. The attached resolution authorized, in part, the acquisition of dozens of tax defaulted parcels in Los Angeles County and the future acceptance of said parcels if they were first acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy). The MRCA funded the acquisition of all the subject parcels with a grant from the Conservancy, however because the Chapter 8 Agreement was in the name of the Conservancy, the County would only record the title of all the subject properties under the Conservancy.

Eight of these Conservancy-owned parcels are located north of State Route 14 that forms most of the northern boundary of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. Correcting the error of the Conservancy taking title to eight parcels located north of its State jurisdictional boundary is the Conservancy's interest. The proposed action serves to formally request that the Conservancy transfer the subject eight parcels totaling 459.29 acres to the MRCA. The MRCA already manages all of the subject parcels for the Conservancy.

The subject parcels range from the Edwards Air Force base area to Lake Los Angeles to Fairmont Butte. An aerial photograph showing the locations of the eight subject properties is attached. A table showing the current and former APNs, acreage, and general location is also attached. The largest cluster of land is two parcels totaling 158.76 acres that include Fairmont Butte. The MRCA owns six other parcels within

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a three mile radius of this Conservancy holding. In the addition the MRCA is going to begin a management contract with the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) on a soon to be acquired DMCA 480-acre property that abuts the Conservancy's 158.76 holding. That contract will provide annual operations money to the MRCA to maintain a limited ranger presence in that area.

The remainder of the parcels are unremarkable and contain desert and desert transition habitat with varying degrees of quality and disturbance levels.

Because the MRCA is currently managing the subject eight parcels, the proposed action should not present any additional cost to the MRCA. MRCA Resolution No. 01-112 also authorizes the MRCA to transfer any of the subject eight parcels to other park agencies for long term management if the opportunity presents itself. For example it makes sense for the Fairmont Butte holding to one day be transferred to California State Parks to add to the Poppy Preserve.

The proposed action comprises a formal request to the Conservancy to enable the MRCA implement MRCA Resolution No. 01-112 and accept the transfer the eight properties that are not in the Conservancy's jurisdiction.