



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 1, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution accepting the assignment of the right to apply for 1992 per parcel funds (8.b.1) from the City of Los Angeles, and approving the filing of an application for designated Proposition A funds for the acquisition of APNs 5576-009-055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063, and 064, known as the La Rocha Acquisition Project, and entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire said properties, Hollywood Dell area, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting the assignment of the right to apply for 1992 per parcel funds (8.b.1) from the City of Los Angeles, and approving the filing of an application for designated Proposition A funds for the acquisition of APNs 5576-009-055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063, and 064, known as the La Rocha Acquisition Project, and entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire said properties in the Hollywood Dell area.

Background: On August 23, 2010, the Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 10-106, authorizing entering into an option agreement for the acquisition of the listed parcels in the Hollywood Dell area. On April 6, 2011, the Governing Board adopted Resolution 11-55 amending the previous resolution to authorize a fee simple transaction as opposed to an option agreement.

The ten subject parcels are located in approximately 0.20 miles south of the intersection of Lake Hollywood Drive and Montlake Drive, along the paper street portion of La Rocha Drive. (See attached maps.) This paper street currently serves as an existing community trail. This area falls within Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District Number One, Area E. These parcels were identified by staff as having been on the Benefit Assessment District Engineer's Report since the formation of the District. There are no Area E funds available for this purpose following the Cahuenga Peak acquisition.

The properties support mixed north-slope habitat with intermittent tree cover. The adjacent paper street serves as an already existing trail that is well maintained by the community. The neighbors support continued public access along this trail. Some brush clearance will be required on this property. A portion of the private funds raised will be set aside in a fuel modification fund expressly for this purpose. A brushing fund of no less than \$25,000 for the MRCA shall be a prerequisite of closing escrow. The acquisition will provide general benefit towards that requirement of the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District Number One.

The April 6, 2011 resolution authorized entering into the purchase agreement. Said Purchase Agreement was signed and funding for staff time was advanced to the MRCA. The community has been steadily raising money. Out of the blue, 4th District Councilmember Tom LaBonge contacted staff about the acquisition. Staff is appreciative of this funding and urges the Governing Board to apply to the County for the funding.