



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of the Laurel Canyon – Mulholland Properties project, Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of the Laurel Canyon – Mulholland Properties project, Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been incrementally acquiring the six lots totaling approximately six acres at the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Drive since 2007. The MRCA now owns one of the six lots in fee simple and has irreversible rights to conservation easements over three additional parcels. Over 25 percent of the acreage is now permanently protected. An attached figure shows the protected areas.

The Third Supervisorial District has agreed to contribute \$100,000 of Proposition A Specified Excess Funds towards the acquisition of additional conservation easements on four of the subject parcels (APNs 5565-003-036, 037, 039 and 040). The exact boundaries of the those easements will be determined by a final appraisal evaluation. The most probable boundaries are shown on the attached figure. The amount of additional land permanently protected from these multiple conservation easements is approximately 0.7 acres. The amount of option extension time provided by the \$100,000 payment is still under negotiation.

The conservation easements will provide a contiguous wildlife corridor through the properties that connect the Mulholland Drive right-of-way and Laurel Canyon Community Park open space to key open space receiver areas on the east side of Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The attached resolution authorizes acceptance of the right to apply for the funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and to enter into a Project Agreement with the County to receive the funding.



For more information on the proposed restoration and improvements, please see the attached Elephant Hill Open Space concept proposal.