



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 3, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Discussion, update, and possible action on acquisition of La Rocha properties, APNs 5576-009-055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063, and 064, Hollywood Dell, Los Angeles.**

Background:

In 2010, MRCA staff was approached by members of the community in the Hollywood Dell area of Los Angeles regarding the proposed acquisition of the above listed APNs, commonly known as the La Rocha properties. MRCA staff and the property owner tried to reach an agreement for the purchase and sale of the property, but were unable to do so.

Community members advocating for this acquisition continued to raise funds and remained in contact with the property owner. In early 2011, staff was approached to revisit the acquisition under revised terms. At the April 6, 2011 meeting, the Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the La Rocha properties.

Due to the absence of MRCA funds for this acquisition, the Board's approval to acquire the property was conditioned, in part, on receipt by the MRCA of: a) funding for pre-acquisition costs, b) funding for ongoing maintenance of the property, and c) funding for the purchase price and closing costs - to be raised in full by members of the community, led by the informal group Friends of La Rocha Trail ("Friends"). Per the Board's direction, an update on the acquisition and the funding was scheduled for the August Governing Board meeting.

The MRCA and the property owner subsequently agreed to an extended, 8 month escrow to allow the Friends to raise the necessary funding for the acquisition and related costs.

As of the date of this letter, the Friends have made significant progress toward

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raising the total required funding, including helping to secure the City of Los Angeles's agreement to assign Proposition A funds to the MRCA for this acquisition, an effort led by Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

As of the date of this report, an escrow account has been opened and an initial deposit has been made. MRCA staff is prepared to close escrow upon receipt of the balance of the acquisition costs and purchase price from Proposition A and/or private donors.

In conjunction with this agenda item, members of the Friends of La Rocha Trail will provide an update on fundraising efforts.