



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 XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of donation of APNs 4383-029-001 and 002 totaling 8.87 acres in Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyons, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of donation of APNs 4383-029-001 and 002 totaling 8.87 acres in Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyons, City of Los Angeles.

Background: A representative from Loew's Corporation contacted staff several months ago about the possible sale or donation of two parcels in the Beverly Glen area. They recently made contact again and want to donate the subject parcels free and clear as soon as possible. The subject 8.87 acres evenly straddles the watershed divide between Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyons. The western boundary abuts City of Los Angeles open space parkland and two Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) parcels are situated just south at the terminus of Westwanda Drive.

The property is landlocked, but it requires no brushing because the closest house is 230 feet away. A 2011 Google aerial photograph shows some recent minor grading activity with a distinct dirt road leading back to a large estate to the northeast. Staff will investigate this issue prior to acceptance of the property.

The property is part of the primary east-west habitat linkage between the Stone Canyon and Franklin Canyon core habitat areas. It is also part of the longest contiguous privately owned habitat block in the Santa Monica Mountains east of Hoag Canyon.

The proposed authorization to accept the property would be contingent on the property passing physical inspection and the clearance of all title issues.

The property would add to the general benefit accumulated in Area B of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1.