

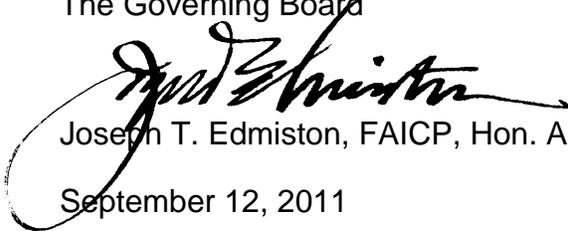


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 12, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Burnell Avenue properties abutting Elyria Canyon Park and authorizing acquisition of APNs (5464-028-26, 027, 028, 029, 042; 5464-030-037, 038, 039), Mount Washington, 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 to use First Supervisorial District specified cities excess funds, as assigned by the City of Los Angeles, to acquire Burnell Drive properties abutting Elyria Canyon Park, and authorizing acquisition of said parcels (APNs 5464-028-26, 027, 028, 029, 042; 5464-030-037, 038, 039), Mount Washington, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The action would allow the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to receive Proposition A funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of seven vacant parcels totaling approximately 1.44 acres along "dirt" Burnell Drive in Mount Washington, adjacent to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy-owned Elyria Canyon Park. The "Dirt Burnell" trail passes through walnut woodland to Elyria Canyon Park, providing the immediate neighborhood with direct access to the park. Staff has advanced the proposed acquisition to near completion, pending funding from County Supervisor Gloria Molina. The total project budget is \$200,000, of which \$145,000 is anticipated from Proposition A specified cities excess funds. With support from Supervisor Molina and the Conservancy, the pending acquisition of the subject seven parcels will protect this community asset in perpetuity.

The MRCA would contribute additional funding from an existing Proposition 50 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for acquisitions in Northeast Los Angeles. Staff has received signed acknowledgments of brushing responsibilities

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from the majority of affected adjacent property owners who would perform annual brushing as required by the Los Angeles Fire Department. The resolution would also authorize the acquisition of an additional eighth vacant Burnell Drive parcel should funding and a willing seller become available.