



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: March 14, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing co-application with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to the L.A. for Kids - Proposition K Program for grant funds for the Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Acquisition Project, Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing co-application with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to the L.A. for Kids - Proposition K Program for grant funds for the Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Acquisition Project.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's acquisition effort on the multi-lot ownership located at the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive needs a substantial sized funding source to maintain adequate momentum. Over twenty-five percent of the land has been permanently saved through one fee simple acquisition and many conservation easements (see attached figure).

Los Angeles City 5th District Councilmember Paul Koretz has been a complete champion of the project. His staff is working with other City departments and the MRCA staff to foster and support an application for Proposition K funds through the L.A. for Kids grant program. Applications are due at the end of April but ideally would be submitted by the end of March.

Real estate acquired through the City's Proposition K program must be held by a City department. The Department of Recreation and Parks has stepped forward to be a co-applicant for up to \$1,500,000 in funding from the program. The proposed application would be for the largest, and topmost, lot right at the street intersection (see attached figure). It is a 1.71 acre lot. The owner has provided a willing seller letter based on the MRCA's appraisal. The City Department of General Services has also approved the appraisal. Funding will not be available until July of 2013. Although the City would own the lot in fee simple, the MRCA must agree to maintain the property in its open space condition.

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This is a rare opportunity where so many factors are aligned and thus a grant application has a high probability of success.