



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 2, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire 13.9 acres (APN 4456-037-008) abutting Piuma Road in the Cold Creek watershed contingent on approval by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire 13.9 acres (APN 4456-037-008) abutting Piuma Road in the Cold Creek watershed contingent on approval by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Background: The subject approximately 14-acre property is located in the portion of the Malibu Creek State Park core habitat on the east side of Malibu Canyon Road. It abuts Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property to the south. It is part of a regionally significant watershed for southbound traffic on Malibu Canyon Road. The County designates the property as part of Malibu-Cold Creek Significant Watershed area and Piuma Road as a scenic roadway. A map of the property is attached.

The owner contacted staff over a year ago. After a year of back and forth he has offered the property at a bargain sale price. He requires fast action for financial planning purposes. The proposed funding source is the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund that is paid into by people obtaining Coastal Development Permits in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone with impacts exceeding 10,000 square feet. The MRCA holds and expends the funds. The fund agreement with the California Coastal Commission requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to pre-approve each expenditure. The Conservancy is expected to meet on May 21st. The MRCA's Chief of Operations inspected the property on April 26th.

Price and terms will be discussed in closed session.