



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of in lieu mitigation funding to acquire APNs 2551-002-004 and 005 totaling 31.6 acres in the Doane Canyon tributary of Big Tujunga Canyon, Sunland.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of in lieu mitigation funding to acquire APNs 2551-002-004 and 005 totaling 31.6 acres in the Doane Canyon tributary of Big Tujunga Canyon adjacent to the Angeles National Forest.

Background: A representative of the Santa Barbara Foundation contacted staff in the fall about two donated properties located adjacent to Angeles National Forest. The properties comprise a high percentage of a public lands gap between the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power's Big Tujunga Canyon Wash ownership and the National Forest. They also include a 1500-foot-long section of USGS blueline stream. Aerial photographs of the parcels and one ground photograph are attached. The wide streambed shows substantial hydrological activity with many sections of exposed granitic boulders. The principal riparian plants are California sycamore and mulefat. The uncommon Davidson's bush mallow is also present in the wash system.

The funding for the property would be from in lieu mitigation fees designated to acquire riparian habitat in the Los Angeles River watershed. The properties are on an acquisition list approved by the California Department of Fish and Game. The two subject parcels provide excellent existing habitat with strong enhancement potential. One of the more recent San Gabriel Mountains fires (Station) burned the entirety of the property. The regrowth is proceeding well. There is gated, paved road access to the southern tip of the western parcel via Oro Vista Avenue. However, that portion of Oro Vista Avenue is only accessible through the private, gated Riverwood Ranch community. Doane Canyon Road is a partially washed out dirt road that leads from the edge of Big Tujunga Wash to a dirt portion of Oro Vista

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Avenue that courses through both of the subject parcels. These existing dirt roads are already used by equestrians for trail purposes.

Staff inspected the property and found no issues that would impede acquisition of the property. There are few large pieces of trash that will be removed. Price and terms to be discussed in closed session.