



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: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into an option agreement on APNs 5565-003-036, 037, 039, 040, and 041 and making said option payments, Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into an option agreement on APNs 5565-003-036, 037, 039, 040, and 041 and making said option payments, Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The subject Laurel Canyon and Mulholland project has been an MRCA acquisition project since December 2007. Since that time the MRCA has acquired one of six original parcels in fee simple and conservation easements over portions of the five remaining parcels. All of the shaded areas on the attached map are under permanent MRCA protection. This protection preserves a narrow but essential wildlife corridor to the western side of Laurel Canyon Boulevard but does not protect the top principal viewshed lot or the many acres of terraced flat areas as the property descends into a canyon bottom anchored by a year-round spring.

This acquisition is a focal point of a large Hollywood Hills community that has contributed over \$170,000 to the acquisition effort. The property has not been under option for almost one year. The owner last received \$100,000 of Proposition A funding in May for 0.8 acres of conservation easement after going over 15 months without any payment.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks has a pending Proposition K grant application for the full price of the top lot (parcel 036) that easily made the cut for further consideration last week. It is a strong application with strong support both from both the old and newly redistricted councilmembers.

The property is part of one of two east-west habitat linkages in that portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. The ecological, recreational, viewshed and watershed

Agenda Item V
October 3, 2012
Page 2

value of the acquisition warrant all possible actions to ensure its permanent protection.

Key resource value, community energy, a major pending funding source, and a flexible willing seller warrant the expenditure of funds to option the property for a period to be negotiated. All option payments would apply to the final purchase price.