



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 5, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of APN's totaling approximately 259 acres from the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority and approximately 311 acres from Whitebird Holdings in La Tuna Canyon, on both sides of the 210 Freeway, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of APN's 2545-018-900, 901; 2546-010-901, 902; 2561-007-900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908; 2562-003-901, 902; 2562-004-900 from the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority, and authorizing the acceptance of APN's 2401-032-003, 005, 006, 007, 008; 2401-034-003; 2561-009-005, 006, 007, 010, 012, 013, 015, 016; 2561-031-003, 004; 2561-033-002, 003; 2562-004-008, 011, 014; 2562-005-003, 004, 006, 007; 2562-006-005, 008 from Whitebird Holdings, in La Tuna Canyon, Verdugo Mountains, City of Los Angeles.

Background: At its September 2011 meeting, the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) authorized the acceptance of an approximately 600-acre collection of parcels that encompass the majority of the open space area required by the City of Los Angeles' 2004 approval of the Canyon Hills (Whitebird) project in the northern Verdugo Mountains. The MRCA accepted a conservation easement over 570 acres in 2010.

In late 2011, the DMCA took title to fourteen of the subject parcels, located both on the north and south side of the 210 Freeway, totaling 259 acres. The attached figures show both the total 570-acre open space area and the portion of the acreage that the DMCA has taken title to subject to conservation easements held

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by the MRCA. Whitebird has delayed transfer of the remaining parcels to the DMCA, or any other public agency, until a determination is made about whether or not they need any of the remaining land for habitat mitigation activities.

The September 2011 DMCA staff report on the subject land dedication acceptance was clear that DMCA ownership would be brief because the DMCA does not have the resources to manage the subject property nor the interest in the incumbent liability.

Whitebird is now eager to transfer the remaining property to a public agency. It now appears that the passage of one years time makes it possible for Whitebird to transfer the remaining parcels directly to the MRCA. The proposed action would authorize the MRCA to accept approximately 259 acres directly from the DMCA and approximately 311 acres directly from Whitebird Holdings.

If authorized the transfer of all the subject parcels to the MRCA could occur prior to 2013.