



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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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 XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of conservation and trail easements over APN 4467-002-002 using Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, entering into an agreement to receive fee title to APN 4467-002-002 in the future, and acceptance of trail and conservation easements over APN 4467-003-021, Ramirez Canyon, City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of conservation and trail easements over APN 4467-002-002 using \$75,000 of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, entering into an agreement to receive fee title to APN 4467-002-002 in the future, and acceptance of trail and conservation easements over APN 4467-003-021, Ramirez Canyon, City of Malibu.

Background: Approximately three years ago the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired an approximately five-acre conservation and trail easement for the Coastal Slope Trail over APN 4467-003-021 adjacent to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy-owned Ramirez Canyon Park. A map is attached. That existing conservation easement protects significant coastal sage scrub in the Ramirez Canyon watershed. The trail has not been built because of litigation.

Staff has additionally long sought a north-south trail easement within APN 4467-003-021 to connect the "Retaining Wall Trail" that begins at Ramirez Canyon Road to the future Coastal Slope Trail.

The proposed actions would provide that above described valuable spur trail easement and approximately 7.5 acres of conservation easement over APNs 4467-002-002 and 4467-003-021. The action also includes a greater than one-hundred-foot-wide trail easement over the length of 4467-002-002.

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APN 4467-002-002 is a 4.88-acre parcel that contains over 150 feet of Ramirez Creek and almost two-thirds of an acre of native woodland. The property provides high quality habitat buffer to Ramirez Canyon Park. The proposed action would provide the MRCA with a conservation easement over the whole parcel except for a 30-foot-wide access easement along the southern boundary. The proposed action also authorizes the MRCA to accept all or part of the property in fee simple now or at a later date.

The deal would use \$75,000 of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to the acquire the above approximately 7.5 acres of conservation and trail easement. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy must approve the MRCA's use of this funding source, and the Conservancy is set to consider such an action at its December 3, 2012 meeting.