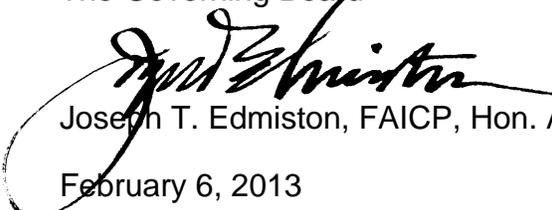


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 6, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 2172-028-027, 028, 029 totaling approximately 0.5 acres in Woodland Hills using funds from Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 2172-028-027, 028, and 029 totaling approximately 0.5 acres in Woodland Hills using funds from Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2.

Background: The three subject parcels are located along the north side of dirt Mulholland Drive next to State Park property and across the street (dirt road) from City of Los Angeles and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (21000 Mulholland) open space. They are fully part of the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat block and support a near-closed canopy forest of California black walnut woodland.

Development of the parcels alone would require approximately three acres of brush clearance with approximately 75 percent occurring on public parkland. There currently no houses on dirt Mulholland for over a quarter mile to the west. Development of the property would have a significant adverse visual impact on the Mulholland Drive Scenic Parkway. Dirt Mulholland in this area is also an important public recreational trail.

The property has been offered as a bargain sale and should be acquired while funds are available to ensure the visual quality of the Scenic Parkway and the ecological integrity of the Big Wild's perimeter.

All funding would be from the Assessment District Area F funds and the sale is proposed as a bargain sale. Price and terms are to be discussed in closed session.

There are no structures within 200 of the property perimeter to require any brush clearance.

