MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April, 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Agenda Item XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2581-013-005 for $27,500, 2.51 acres, using in lieu mitigation funds, Lopez Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2581-013-005 in Lopez Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) currently owns a contiguous block of ten parcels in Lopez Canyon, totaling 129 acres. These parcels connect three sections of the Angeles National Forest along the watershed divide between Lopez and Kagel Canyons.

The property contains numerous existing trails and a 3,000-foot section of streambed. This subject parcel, APN 2581-013-005, is west of and adjacent to this ten-parcel block. This parcel is a key linkage between two sections in the stream channel. The subject property is accessible through either of two adjacent MRCA parcels within the block.

The parcel contains alluvial fan sage scrub, sycamore riparian flood plain, and high quality chaparral habitat types. This acquisition will preserve the habitat and be available for a future riparian restoration project.

Acquisition of this property will improve the scope and success of the restoration project planned for the site.