



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: July 3, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds towards the acquisition of APN 4448-018-018 (1809 Tuna Canyon Road), adjacent Rocky Ledge, in the Topanga Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of up to \$30,000 of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds, towards the acquisition of approximately 6.28-acre parcel APN 4448-018-018 (1809 Tuna Canyon Road), in the Topanga Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The subject 6.28-acre property is bordered on the south by Dix Canyon Creek, a blueline stream, and bordered on the north by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority 's (MRCA) 20.66-acre Rocky Ledge property, acquired in January of 2011 using approximately \$90,000 of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds. (See attached maps.) The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy previously submitted a comment letter to the County of Los Angeles regarding proposed residential development of the subject property on December 5, 2011. That letter cited potential significant impacts due to the unique Miocene-era sandstone formations that exist on site, and the possible presence of Santa Susana Tarweed (*Deinandra minthornii*).

The property owner has recently indicated a willingness to sell. A group of local community members known at The Rocky Ledge Preservation Team have teamed up with the County's Third Supervisorial District and the MRCA to meet the seller's asking price. The proposed funding package includes up to \$30,000 of the MRCA's Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF). The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy pre-approved the use of CHIMF funding for this project on June 3, 2013. (See attached Conservancy Resolution No. 13-42.)

The bulk of the funding for this acquisition is being supplied by the Third Supervisorial District. A group of local community members have been pushing for

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the MRCA to acquire this property for more than a year. If the acquisition is completed, the MRCA would be the fee simple property owner and the management entity.