



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Agenda Item X

MRCA

10/2/13

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2274-018-014, approximately 1.6 acres, Sherman Oaks.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2274-018-014, approximately 1.6 acres, Sherman Oaks.

Background: The subject parcel is a 1.6-acre lot is located on the north slope of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains in Sherman Oaks. The address is 3967 Camino de al Cumbre. The attached map shows how the property is bounded by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) on the north and west and by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property to the south and east. The property is part of the only east-west habitat linkage in that portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. This subject cluster of MRCA and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy open space forms a significant habitat node at a key juncture in this wildlife corridor. California black walnut woodland is the dominant habitat type. Development of the subject property would eliminate the ecological node value of the area and result in wholesale elimination of habitat resources on public land from required brush clearance.

At a special October 3, 2012 meeting, the Governing Board approved a resolution authorizing entering into an option agreement on the subject parcel and making said option payments. Staff has subsequently appraised the property and has made a formal offer to option the property. The owners are considering the offer. The funding for the property is from MRCA Measure HH. Until HH funds are available in early 2014, the option costs will be covered by borrowed funds, including potentially a neighborhood mitigation fund controlled by the City of Los Angeles.

The proposed action authorizes fee simple acquisition of the property using funds from MRCA Measure HH.