



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: October 2, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds to acquire Oak Forest Canyon wildlife corridor parcel, eastern Santa Monica Mountains, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds to acquire Oak Forest Canyon wildfire corridor parcel (APN 2274-018-014), eastern Santa Monica Mountains, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The Oak Forest Canyon wildlife corridor parcel (APN 2274-018-014) is 1.6 acres, located on the north slope of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains in Sherman Oaks. The attached map shows how the parcel is bounded by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) property to the north and west, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property to the south and east. The parcel is part of the only east-west habitat linkage in that portion of the Santa Monica Mountains, which helps form a significant habitat node at a key juncture in this wildlife corridor.

At its 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. Then at its February 6, 2013 meeting the Governing Board approved a resolution authorizing entering into loan agreements with the City of Los Angeles or private entities to acquire this parcel. Finally, at its June 5, 2013 meeting the Governing Board approved the acquisition of this parcel. For more information about these board actions and on the subject parcel, please refer to the attached Staff Reports from these two meetings.

The acquisition of parcel was expected to be funded by Measure HH. However, funding from Measure HH will not be available until early 2014. Due to a time limit on closing the transaction of this acquisition, other funding sources will have to be used. A request for grant funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in

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the amount of \$215,000 is necessary in order to meet the time constraint. An additional donation of up to \$25,000 from the Buckley School Neighborhood Protection Fund, orchestrated by Council District Four, has been designated for the use of acquiring this parcel as well. These funding sources will adequately acquire this parcel, which will link this important habitat node to the wildlife corridor in this highly urbanized area.