

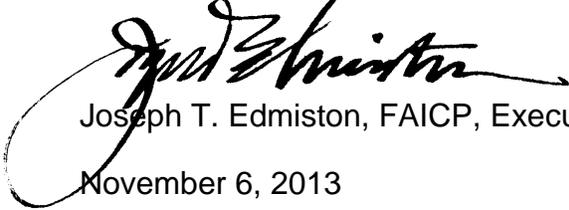


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: November 6, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 2821-003-012 and 013 totaling approximately 80 acres in the Browns Canyon watershed using Proposition A funds and non-Corps related mitigation funds, unincorporated Chatsworth area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 2821-003-012 and 013 totaling approximately 80 acres in the Browns Canyon watershed using Proposition A funds and non-Corps related mitigation funds, unincorporated Chatsworth area.

Background: The subject 80-acre property located in the upper Browns Canyon watershed has several ecologically unique features. It contains an intact riparian corridor with year-round flows, waterfalls, a natural grotto, grasslands, and the sensitive plant community/habitat - southern cottonwood willow riparian forest (as recognized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife). The property abuts 2,326-acres of Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch, owned by the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, and will further extend the park east. The attached map shows the relationship to surrounding parkland.

The subject property is also part of the proposed Santa Susana Mountains/Simi Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Number 23. This SEA includes several important linkages for wildlife movement between the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, and Los Padres National Forest. The properties dense undisturbed natural habitat provides excellent opportunities for concealment and water sources while the grasslands provide and abundance of prey.

The proposed primary funding source is Fifth Supervisorial District Proposition A Funds. The secondary funding is source is non-Corps related mitigation funds. The proposed action authorizes acquisition of the property using any combination of these funding sources.