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: April 2, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to and acceptance of grant funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the purchase of the following 24 APNs: 4457-004-056 through 072, 4457-005-012, 015, 017, 027, 028; 4458-031-001 and 002, totaling approximately 703 acres located in Puerco Canyon in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to and acceptance of grant funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the purchase of the following 24 APNs: 4457-004-056 through 072, 4457-005-012, 015, 017, 027, 028; 4458-031-001 and 002, totaling approximately 703 acres located in Puerco Canyon in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Malibu.

Background: The subject property is reportedly the largest remaining privately owned open space parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains. It is an outstanding example of the Mediterranean biome with a range of plant communities including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, and oak woodlands.

Successful acquisition of this property will ensure contiguous protected open space in a key part of the Santa Monica Mountains and preservation of a large portion of the Puerco Canyon watershed which feeds into the Santa Monica Bay. For additional background details, please see the staff report for Item VIII on this agenda, which is here by incorporated herein by reference.

Approval of this item will authorize applying for a $1.5 million grant and entering into a grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for funding the acquisition and will authorize the acceptance of said funding.