



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 XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of fee simple or conservation easement interests on APNs 2064-005-011 (27.43 acres) and 2064-005-015 (2.62 acres) along the 101 freeway corridor and associated funding in cooperation with the City of Calabasas, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of fee simple or conservation easement interests on APNs 2064-005-011 (27.43 acres) and 2064-005-015 (2.62 acres) along the 101 freeway corridor and associated funding in cooperation with the City of Calabasas.

Background: The two subject parcels totaling over 30 acres along the south side of the 101 freeway corridor provide substantial public benefit for viewshed, wildlife, corridor, and watershed protection. The attached map shows the parcels and surrounding lands.

The City of Calabasas is working to annex a cluster of parcels that includes APNs 2064-005-011 and 2064-005-015. As part of this process, the City sees strong benefit in the permanent protection of these two open space parcels located along the watershed divide between Las Virgenes and Liberty Canyons. The City of Agoura Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy staffs also agree that permanent protection of both parcels under the MRCA is important to the City's annexation effort. The 27-acre parcel had prior landslide issues and contains drainage systems not typically present on lands accepted by the MRCA. For that reason, the MRCA would be best served by protection via a conservation easement. The proposed action would authorize the MRCA to accept an interest in both parcels when so offered by the City and to allow some cost recovery as necessary.