MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of mitigation funds to acquire APN 3212-004-017 approximately 5.8 acres in Agua Dulce Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of mitigation funds to acquire APN 3212-004-017 along Agua Dulce Creek.

Background: The subject 5.8-acre property encompasses the portion of Agua Dulce Creek immediately north of State Route 14 at the Agua Dulce Canyon Road interchange. In addition to its riparian values, the parcel is a key habitat linkage component to move animals beneath the freeway via the interchange underpass or the inverted u-shaped culvert that carries Agua Dulce Creek under the freeway. This inter-mountain range habitat linkage connects the Sierra Pelona Range to the San Gabriel Mountains as well as the two sections of the Angeles National Forest. It is a keystone parcel in the Angeles Linkage CAPP approved by the California Department of Fish and Game. The attached map shows the parcel. The Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority is acquiring the abutting 50-acre parcel to the immediate west to further bolster the protection level for this linkage area.