

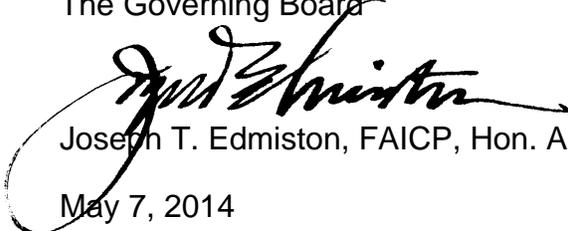


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APNs 4465-005-006 and 4465-004-053 in the Escondido Canyon watershed and acquisition of said parcels, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APNs 4465-005-006 and 4465-004-053 and acquisition of said parcels.

Background: The two subject parcels under the same ownership comprise 78 acres in the Escondido Canyon and a small sliver of the Ramirez Canyon watersheds. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has the parcels under contract. A map of the two subject parcels is attached.

The subject parcels make up the only designated habitat linkage in the Los Angeles County General Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains, which provides for east-west wildlife movement from the Zuma/Trancas Canyon unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to the Latigo-Solstice Canyon habitat complex. The subject parcels would be part of a major eastern extension of the Zuma/Trancas Canyon unit. Most of the property is designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in the existing Los Angeles County General Plan and the soon to be adopted Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program. The subject parcels support a variety of plant communities including sycamore oak riparian woodland, large stands of purple sage coastal sage scrub, multi-acre coastal live oak woodlands, walnut woodlands, and different species of ceanothus chaparral. Both parcels are given the highest priority with the fee acquisition designation in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area *Land Protection Plan*.

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At its March 24, 2014 meeting the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) authorized a grant to the MRCA for the acquisition of these 77.43 acres (APNs 4465-004-053 and 4465-005-006). The acquisition is proposed to be funded by that Conservancy grant, 3rd Supervisorial District Proposition A Excess Funds, and Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund.

For the MRCA to use Proposition A funding in the Santa Monica Mountains, the Conservancy must authorize assigning the right to apply for said funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to the MRCA. The Conservancy took that action at its April 2014 meeting assigning the MRCA the right to apply for \$535,000 of 3rd Supervisorial District Proposition A Big Five Specified Excess Funds.

The proposed action lays the foundation to receive the Proposition A funding and authorizes the acquisition of APNs 4465-004-053 and 4465-005-006.