




# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a funding agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the Carbon Canyon East Segment Property of the Coastal Slope Trail.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a funding agreement with the County of Los Angeles for the Carbon Canyon East Segment Property of the Coastal Slope Trail and authorize the acceptance of said funds.

Background: The Coastal Slope Trail is part of the County and City of Malibu General Plans. The Coastal Slope Trail provides recreational trail linkages between several parks in the Santa Monica Mountains, including Leo Carrillo State Park, Point Mugu State Park, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and Topanga State Park. Several portions of the planned trail also link these parklands to open space owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the County, and the City.

The Coastal Slope Trail provides scenic views of the Pacific coastline as well as habitat protection for native plants and wildlife. The trail crosses key watershed areas such as the Escondido Canyon, Carbon Canyon, and Topanga Canyon watersheds. The natural habitat areas surrounding the Coastal Slope Trail greatly benefit from open space protection and conservation when parcels of the trail are acquired.

Although many portions of the planned Coastal Slope Trail crosses a combination of public open space owned and managed by California State Parks, the National Park Service, the County, the City of Malibu, and the MRCA, many more portions of the trail are currently disconnected. The process of acquiring the right-of-way for the entirety of the trail is an on-going effort that consists of land acquisition opportunities and construction of the trail itself.

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A large gap in the Coastal Slope Trail is most notable within Carbon Canyon, which contains a limited number of parcels that are currently under public ownership. In light of this, the County has agreed to provide up to \$1,290,000 for the acquisition of designated eastern Carbon Canyon parcels on the attached map and construction of the Coastal Slope Trail segment in this area. The funding agreement will provide the resources necessary to acquire up to 25 acres of designated land, and construct the portion of the Coastal Slope Trail that will provide a linkage opportunity from Malibu Creek State Park to Tuna Canyon. Land acquired through this funding resource will also preserve important coastal resources that currently lack protection within Carbon Canyon.