



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: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds to acquire APNs 4465-005-006 and 4465-004-053 in the Escondido Canyon watershed, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds to acquire APNs 4465-005-006 and 4465-004-053 in the Escondido Canyon watershed.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has the subject 77.43 acres (APNs 4465-004-053 and 4465-005-006) in the Escondido Canyon watershed under contract. The acquisition is proposed to be funded by a grant approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Proposition A funds, and Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF). A map of the property is attached.

Each CHIMF expenditure by the MRCA must first be approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy). At its April 2014 meeting the Conservancy approved the use of up to \$100,000 of CHIMF for this acquisition. The MRCA holds and expends these mitigation funds that can only be spent within in the Coastal Zone boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains. The proposed action would authorize the MRCA to use up to \$100,000 of CHIMF for this acquisition.

Both parcels are given the highest priority with the fee acquisition designation in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area *Land Protection Plan*.

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.