



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: July 2, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XVII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APN 4434-008-007 and 4434-001-004 comprised of 37 acres in the Santa Maria and Garapito subwatersheds of Topanga Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

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 4434-008-007 and 4434-001-004 comprised of 37 acres in upper Topanga Canyon.

Background: The subject 37-acre ownership has been a longtime acquisition priority to the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The visually prominent property is part of the 20,000-acre Big Wild and abuts both Topanga State Park and two MRCA ownerships. The attached maps show the subject parcels and parklands. The proposed Santa Maria Canyon Trail would connect south through the parcels from dirt Mulholland Drive. Any development of the property would have significant adverse ecological, visual, and recreational impacts.

After over twenty years of effort, it appears that all ingredients are in place to acquire the property. The proposed action would authorize both entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and actual acquisition of the property. All funding would be through 3rd Supervisorial District Proposition A funds.