MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 2.69-acre conservation easement and processing funds over portions of APNs 2836-003-010, 017, 018, 019, 2836-002-038, and 047 in Soledad Canyon, Santa Clarita.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 2.69-acre conservation easement and processing funds over portions of APNs 2836-003-010, 017, 018, 019, 2836-002-038, and 047 in Soledad Canyon, Santa Clarita.

Background: As a condition of certification for the tentative tract map of the Soledad Circle Estates development project, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is requiring onsite mitigation to offset proposed and temporal loss of waters of the United States as a result of the proposed project. To satisfy the mitigation condition, the 2.69-acre onsite mitigation area must be protected by a conservation easement. The project applicant representative has asked the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) if they would accept the conservation easement.

Please see the attached figure for the easement location. The site does not contain high quality habitat. The MRCA shall be well compensated for accepting the conservation easement. The MRCA has previously accepted a 5-acre conservation easement as offsite mitigation for the proposed project in 2011.