




# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-8900

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: September 10, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement from Los Angeles County over APNs 4471-004-903 and 4471-004-905, upper Zuma Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a 2.5-acre conservation easement from Los Angeles County in upper Zuma Canyon watershed, to secure an MRCA mitigation site.

Background: A property owner contacted Staff in Spring 2014 regarding the need for off-site oak tree mitigation. As a condition of Los Angeles County Oak Tree Permit Number 2013-00019, Project Number R2013-1846-(3), the owner was required to mitigate off-site for the loss of oak trees and oak woodland that would occur during the development of his property. The impacts are to occur in an antiquated small-lot subdivision in Upper Zuma Canyon, within the Zuma Canyon Significant Ecological Area (SEA). The County was insistent that the mitigation remain within the same watershed. The MRCA regularly conducts privately funded mitigation projects on public land.

To facilitate this geographic restriction, the Los Angeles County Planning Department offered the applicant a disturbed site on County-owned property as a potential mitigation site. APNs 4471-004-903 and 905 are two parcels that are part of the County's larger Camp Kilpatrick property, along Encinal Canyon Road.

MRCA staff agreed that the site would be suitable for the implementation of oak tree establishment, with associated oak-woodland understory plantings. Staff has negotiated an agreement with the developer for the MRCA to conduct the oak woodland restoration on the subject County property. Please see the attached figure for the 2.5-acre easement location and details. The actual restoration area is approximately 0.3-acre. As part of the County requirements, the site needs to be protected under a conservation easement by the MRCA.