

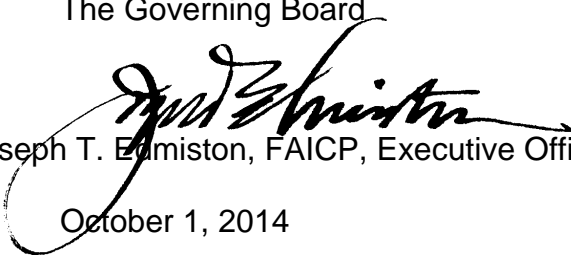


# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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: October 1, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easements over APNs 3271-001-049, 3271-005-032, 3271-005-033, 3271-028-106 and associated management and monitoring funds in Val Verde, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easements over APNs 3271-001-049, 3271-005-032, 3271-005-033, 3271-028-106 and associated management and monitoring funds in Val Verde, Santa Clara River watershed.

Background: To successfully meet compensatory mitigation requirements set forth by the regulatory agencies for the Sterling Gateway Industrial Project the developer is required to dedicate four conservation easements to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) require the use of its conservation easement template and endowment and monitoring requirements. The project location and the boundary of the offered easements is shown on the attached figures.

The total conservation area is approximately 72 acres located in an upland area north of Highway 126 and west of Golden State 5 freeway. The ACOE easements include a seasonal wetland and upland buffer area. The seasonal wetland consists of potential western spadefoot toad habitat. The CDFW easements feature coastal sage scrub, mulefat scrub, and ruderal/non-native grassland. This area includes observed burrowing owl breeding and foraging habitat.

The ACOE easements requires the Grantee to perform trash pick up, sign maintenance, an annual permanent management fund audit, quarterly monitoring, annual reporting, and initiation of enforcement actions as dictated. All of the required responsibilities are designed to be funded by a non-wasting permanent management fund. The MRCA invests its funds in highly conservative investments that earn minimal interest. The principle amount of money required to generate sufficient annual funding is quite high. If that amount exceeds what the developer is willing to pay, then staff will not accept the easements.