



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: March 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor parcels and acquisition of said parcels, Agoura Hills and 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 Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor parcels and acquisition of said parcels in Agoura Hills and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is the primary landholder in the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor on both sides of the 101 freeway. Although a contiguous chain of land has been protected on both sides of the 101 freeway for the Liberty Canyon inter-mountain range wildlife corridor, additional land remains to be acquired to bolster the efficacy of the habitat linkage. If acquired, some of the remaining private parcels would expand the protected habitat block on the north side of the freeway. The private parcels on the south side of the freeway either augment wildlife use of the existing Liberty Canyon Road freeway underpass or the proposed dedicated freeway overpass.

The Third Supervisorial District has expressed an interest in helping to fund some of these parcels based on opportunity sales. In order to expedite the availability of Proposition A funds for said opportunity purchases by the MRCA, it is important to begin the application process. The proposed action would authorize staff to apply for a project agreement to use Specified Excess Funds to acquire Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor parcels including APNs 2052-009-270, 2052-013-040, 2052-013-041 and 042 on the north side of the freeway and APNs 2064-006-019 and 016 and 2064-006-001 on the south side. The final dollar amount and parcels funded by this source must be approved by the Supervisor's office. The above parcels are shown on the attached map.

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The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted a resolution assigning the right to apply for the funds to the MRCA at its February 2015 meeting.