



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: August 5, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 4465-004-084 (47.68 acres) in Ramirez Canyon and entering into necessary agreements to assume maintenance responsibilities for the property, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 4465-004-084 (47.68 acres) in Ramirez Canyon and entering into agreements for maintenance responsibilities.

Background: In the last ten years the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has acquired approximately 275 contiguous acres in an east-west band between Latigo Canyon Road and Kanan Dume Road. The attached map shows these MRCA properties located both in the Ramirez and Escondido Canyon watersheds. This block of MRCA parcels abuts the 20,000-acre National Park Service's Zuma-Trancas Unit. Most of the acquired parcels have been on the highest priority list of the NPS Land Protection Plan.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has secured the necessary funding to close on a key 47.68-acre parcel that would bring the contiguous MRCA ownership to Kanan Dume Road. That funding includes Los Angeles County Proposition A, EEMP, and a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to the MRCA.

TPL will first acquire the property from the private owner. Then in order to access the \$150,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy to the MRCA, the MRCA will acquire the property from TPL for \$150,000. The MRCA would be the permanent stewardship agency. The MRCA may need to sign an assumption and assignment agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to assume the management requirements required of TPL through its Proposition A Project Agreement.

The parcel includes a long section of the Dume Canyon Motorway. This is a paved two-lane private road that connects to Kanan Dume Road. Los Angeles County has

Agenda Item No. VIII
August 5, 2015
Page 2

long held a trail easement over the road. The subject parcel APN 4465-004-084, as well as the 55-acre MRCA parcel to the east, are tied to a road maintenance agreement. At a minimum the MRCA needs to contribute to annual brush clearance along Dume Canyon Motorway. The maintenance obligations for culverts and the road itself will be worked out between staff and the other entities tied to the road maintenance agreement.

The subject 47.68-acre parcel contains approximately 1,500 feet of the main channel of Ramirez Creek and substantial portions of two other blue-line tributaries. All of these drainages support ecologically rich riparian habitat. The property also contains critical viewshed from Kanan Dume Road as it cuts north-south down Ramirez Canyon through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.