



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: August 5, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: 1) Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the California River Parkways Grant Program for the acquisition of Conejo Creek and Calleguas Creek confluence adjacent property, western Santa Monica Mountains; 2) entering into a grant agreement; 3) entering into agreements with funding partners; 4) authorizing the use of in lieu fees for said acquisition; and 5) acquisition of the subject property.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing 1) application to the California River Parkways Grant Program for the acquisition of Conejo Creek and Calleguas Creek confluence adjacent property; 2) entering into a grant agreement; 3) entering into agreements with funding partners; 4) authorizing the use of in lieu fees for said acquisition; and 5) acquisition of the subject property.

The subject 125-acre property is located at the western edge of the Santa Monica Mountains abutting the Oxnard Plain. The property also abuts the confluence of the Conejo and Calleguas creeks. One parcels includes some of Calleguas Creek. The property resembles an old cinder cone. The two creeks border the west and north parcel boundaries (see attached maps). To the south is a wastewater treatment facility and Cal State University Channel Islands. To the east is the core habitat of the Santa Monica Mountains. The peak rise up 500 feet from the creeks below. The property provides an excellent base parcel for river parkway development.

The proposed application would be made to the California Natural Resources Agency's California River Parkways Grant Program. Staff would work in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) on the application. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) would acquire, own, and manage the property. The MRCA currently has some in lieu fee mitigation money for riparian land in the

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Calleguas Creek watershed. Unless another critical opportunity arose in the interim, up to \$100,000 of that funding would go towards the acquisition of the subject property. Other than the River Parkway grant and MRCA mitigation funding, TPL would be responsible for appraisals, title reports, and other funding.

The 125 acres consists of APNs 234-0-160-105 and 234-0-160-205. Initial maintenance costs would be negligible. There is no development on the property.