



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: November 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI (j): Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of discretionary funds to conduct due diligence environmental sampling prior to acceptance of dedication parcels and open space from Tentative Tract No. 52866, Dayton Canyon, Incorporated and Unincorporated City of Los Angeles area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the expenditure of discretionary funds to conduct due diligence environmental sampling prior to acceptance of dedication parcels and open space from Tentative Tract No. 52866, Dayton Canyon, Incorporated and Unincorporated City of Los Angeles area.

In 2000, the City of Los Angeles approved the Dayton Canyon Estates project, now known as the Sterling West Hills project, for 143 single-family homes in Dayton Canyon.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) had negotiated an agreement for mitigation measures with the previous owner, Suncal Companies. Those Open Space/Conservation conditions include the dedication of approximately 290-acres of open space enveloping the development area and a conservation easement to the MRCA. Connecting Simi Hills core habitat to Valley Circle Boulevard across from the Chatsworth Reservoir Nature Preserve. A section of Dayton Creek is also part of the fee simple open space dedication. Public access to the open space area will include a trailhead and public parking area at Valley Circle Boulevard, which will be developed by Centex Homes and managed by MRCA.

Due to the project's close proximity to the Santa Susana Field Lab, staff recommends the MRCA preform due diligence environmental sampling as a precautionary measure prior to the acceptance of 290-acres of open space.

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Staff is requesting contracting an environmental consulting firm with knowledge and experience performing EPA standardized environmental constituent sampling. Consultants will aid MRCA staff in developing and implementing an Environmental Due Diligence Monitoring Plan.

Due to California's protracted drought and the open space dedication timing; constituent sampling will be conducted via soil cores. Soil samples will be sent out to an outside state-certified laboratory for analysis. Suitable testing locations will be selected based on safe access, area is representative of the property, and in collaboration and approval of current landowner. Following completion of laboratory analysis, the data will be summarized and evaluated by staff.

Proposals have been sent out and staff expects to select a winning bid upon Board approval for this expenditure. The MRCA and the selected consultant will initiate the field portion of this assessment within two to three weeks depending on subcontractor availability.