



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: **Special Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the acquisition of APNs 2052-009-270 and 2055-010-270, City of Agoura Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) authorize a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the acquisition of APNs 2052-009-270 and 2055-010-270, City of Agoura Hills.

Background: MRCA staff has identified the subject property, comprised of approximately 72 acres, as a desirable addition to MRCA owned and managed parkland in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.

Located just north of the 101 freeway adjacent to Chesebro Canyon Road, the property is currently owned by the City of Agoura Hills and just outside the boundaries of the city itself. The property is currently unimproved and largely in its natural condition, however it is under contract for sale to a private property owner who has indicated plans for a residential subdivision.

If appropriate funding can be secured, MRCA staff intends to approach the private developer after the completion of the purchase from the City of Agoura Hills with an offer. Staff is requesting authority to apply for a grant up to and including \$6.2 million from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Proposition 1 allotment, but is also planning to seek other public funding for the acquisition project.

Staff anticipates that the developer and the City will close escrow before the end of the 2015 calendar year. The MRCA intends to be in a position to make a formal offer for the purchase within a short time thereafter.