

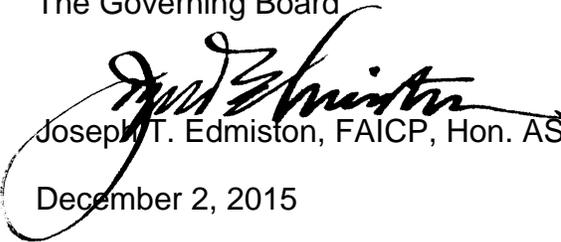


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(k): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-901 in the Agua Dulce area from the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-901 from the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA).

Background: In April 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a new Mitigation Rule and set of guidelines for the operation of In-Lieu Fee mitigation Programs. The Los Angeles County Aquatic Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (Program), in which the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) works with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, is working to fulfill the requirements of this new Rule. One of these requirements is that all portions of properties used for mitigation purposes must be placed under a conservation easement held by a third-party.

SCWRCA-owned (25-acres) APN 3210-002-901 in the Agua Dulce Creek has a recently graded riparian habitat mitigation project conducted by the MRCA as authorized by a SCWRCA resolution. To satisfy the Corps requirements, the MRCA must obtain a conservation easement over the actually credited mitigation area from SCWRCA.

Because a portion of the project is also on adjacent MRCA land, the MRCA must grant a conservation easement over the restoration area to SCWRCA too. The attached figure shows the recommended conservation easement area to be granted to the MRCA at no cost. Item VI(l) on this agenda addresses the easement.

At its December 3, 2015 meeting, the SCWRCA Governing Board is expected to consider an item to grant MRCA a conservation easement at no cost over the riparian restoration area on this parcel.