

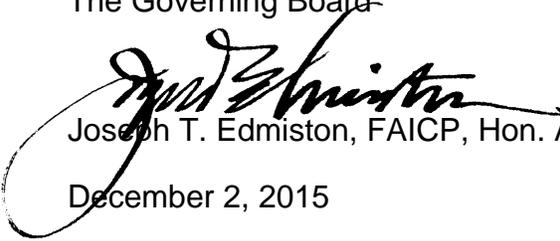


# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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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(I): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-902 in the Agua Dulce area to the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-902 to 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 lands used for mitigation purposes must be placed under a conservation easement held by a third-party.

MRCA-owned (1.7-acre) APN 3210-002-902 in Agua Dulce Creek contains the upstream portion of the MRCA's riparian mitigation project on adjoining Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) property. As part of the MRCA's mitigation approval from the Corps, the MRCA must grant a conservation easement to a third party.

The proposed action would authorize MRCA to grant at no cost a conservation easement to SCWRCA over the portion of APN 3210-002-902 where riparian restoration work is approved. The attached figure shows the approximate boundary of said proposed conservation easement area. The SCWRCA Governing Board is expected to consider an item accepting such conservation easement at its December 3, 2015 meeting.