



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 2, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) applying for and entering into an acquisition grant agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and (b) acquisition of approximately 5.1 acre property located at 2215 Loveland Drive, Mount Washington, APN 5462-026-026.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) applying for and entering into an acquisition grant (Project) agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and (b) acquisition of approximately 5.1 acre property located at 2215 Loveland Drive, Mount Washington, APN 5462-026-026.

Background: Recently staff and citizens from the North East Los Angeles hilltops area pursued the acquisition of 32 lots in the Walnut Canyon area in Glassell Park. That negotiate broke down and now a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is being circulated for the 32 lots. Subsequently an adjacent 5.1 acre ownership went onto the market. The attached figure shows the location of the property west of MRCA-owned Heidelberg Park.

The subject property has multiple slopes facing multiple compass directions and with scores of native black walnut trees. The property has a board level access area from paved Loveland Drive and additional paper (City-owned) street access from two other streets to the north. The terrain and access point make for excellent trail construction opportunities. This is perhaps the largest remaining single APN in the Glassell Park and Mount Washington area. There is chain of other large open space parcels that extends southward for approximately 2000 feet. By all accounts and criteria it is a premier North East Los Angeles hilltop property for parkland.

Staff has submitted an offer on the property. The identified potential funding source is First Supervisorial District Proposition A Excess Funds. Staff is seeking approval to use such funding. The Seller has demanded a short escrow period and thus

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taking the proactive step of authorizing application for funding and acquisition of the property itself is warranted. The property would become part of the MRCA's maintenance route for Elyria Canyon and Heidelberg parks located a short distance to the south and east.