



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 2, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing acquisition of APN 2723-001-001 (4.47 acres) in the Santa Susana Pass using mitigation funding and acceptance of private and public funding for said acquisition, Chatsworth area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acquisition of the 4.47-acre parcel, APN 2723-001-001 in the Santa Susana Pass using mitigation funding, and the acceptance of private and public funding for said acquisition, in the Chatsworth area.

Background: The subject parcel is a 4.47-acre wedge-shaped property surrounded by Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, and the 118 Freeway. It is within the City of Los Angeles, though it borders Ventura County on the west. Rocky Peak Park is located across the 118 Freeway to the north.

The subject parcel contains rocky chaparral habitat and sits upslope of Santa Susana Creek, part of the upper Los Angeles River watershed. The northern third of the property is bisected by Santa Susana Pass Road, which would provide access for a potential residential development. Acquisition of the subject parcel by a public agency would fill a key gap in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, and protect part of the watershed of Santa Susana Creek.

This private in-holding is being offered for sale as a fee-simple acquisition by an estate which has entered bankruptcy. Staff has been approached by members of the community who wish to see this property become permanently protected, and who are willing to donate funds toward its acquisition by the MRCA. There is mitigation funding available from the California Department of Transportation which is specifically earmarked for acquisitions in this area of the Santa Susana Mountains. Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District staff have indicated that agency has funding available to contribute to this acquisition as well. The MRCA would take and hold title, as the subject parcel is located in Los Angeles County.