




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: May 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 1 grant to acquire Carbon Canyon Creek parcels, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 1 grant to acquire Carbon Canyon Creek parcels in an amount not to exceed \$275,000.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired a key 27-acre ownership (Mellone) in the lower portion of Carbon Canyon approximately four years ago to secure a portion of the Coastal Slope Trail alignment. Carbon Creek has perennial flows and well developed riparian woodland. There is no other protected land in Carbon Canyon.

Staff seeks authorization to apply for a Proposition 1 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire a set of Carbon Creek parcels. The primary objective is to assure that key upper watershed portions of Carbon Creek are not developed. The second objective is to secure easements associated with said parcels that would provide an extensive extension of the Coastal Slope Trail down stream of the Mellone MRCA parkland at no additional cost. This new route of the Coastal Slope Trail would avoid construction of the trail up the geologically unstable eastern slope of Carbon Canyon and avert the need to acquire a couple of parcels.

The subject set of 29 potential acquisition parcels totaling 194 acres is shown on the attached map.

A consortium of upper Carbon Canyon owners won a law suit against Mellone that granted them access through his property (now the MRCA's) and access through downstream parcels. Staff has not be able to secure access through the downstream parcels along dirt Carbon Canyon Road. The Mellone property did not

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come with legal access down Carbon Canyon Road. Acquisition of one of most of the 29 shown parcels would provide that trail access to point along Carbon Canyon Road where willing sellers exist. Carbon Canyon Road (dirt) is a beautiful historic trail. The Mellone property offers water and shade for hikers. Many of the subject 29 parcels would score high in the Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant criteria. The grant application most likely would refine the list of 29 parcels. The parcels only have a steep 15-foot-wide access easement for now, so the valuations should reflect that limitation.