



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: June 29, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2017-005-020 totaling approximately 30.7 acres using Proposition 1 funds and in-lieu mitigation fees, Woolsey Canyon, Chatsworth, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of APN 2017-005-020 totaling approximately 30.7 acres using Proposition 1 funds and in-lieu mitigation fees in Woolsey Canyon in the eastern Simi Hills.

Background: On February 3, 2016, the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) authorized an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for a grant of Proposition 1 funds to acquire any combination of six parcels in Woolsey Canyon.

On March 28, 2016, the SMMC authorized a grant of Proposition 1 funds in the amount of \$355,000 to the MRCA for the acquisition of APN 2017-005-020, the primary target parcel of the six parcels proposed for acquisition using Proposition 1 funds.

Additional funds from the MRCA's in lieu mitigation fees will be used towards acquisition of the subject 30.7-acre parcel (APN 2017-005-020). In total, the acquisition project will cost \$437,000. The costs of the acquisition covers the sale price, staff time, and appraisal review and title report.

The subject parcel is a critical component of the habitat linkage that connects Chatsworth Nature Preserve to the Simi Hills core habitat area. A portion of the Dayton Canyon Loop Trail crosses the parcel, and the parcel could potentially include an alternate alignment for the Rim of the Valley Trail. The blue-line Woolsey Creek runs through the property and drains eastward into the nearby Chatsworth Nature Preserve. Access is provided along Woolsey Canyon Road, which runs along the length of the parcel's northern property line.

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The MRCA is slated to complete the acquisition of the adjacent 18-acre parcel to the east, as well as a dedication of the Dayton Canyon Open Space property west of the subject parcel. Thus, acquisition of the subject parcel would ensure further protection of core habitat and the wildlife corridor between the Chatsworth Nature Preserve and the Simi Hills.