

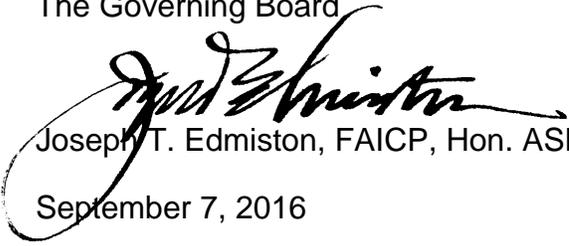


# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 7, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an agricultural conservation easement over APN 3240-013-011 (approximately 1615 acres) from Transition Habitat Conservancy and entering into any associated agreements, Portal Ridge area, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an agricultural conservation easement over APN 3240-013-011 (approximately 1615 acres) from Transition Habitat Conservancy and entering into any associated agreements, Portal Ridge area, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC) is a highly successful, long-standing non-profit organization that protects land along the southern boundary of the Antelope Valley. THC represents an excellent new partner for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in this geographic area. THC currently holds an approximately 1615-acre agricultural conservation easement along Portal Ridge adjacent to a recent large MRCA acquisition. THC is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire fee simple ownership of the 1615 acres. TPL would take fee title first and then transfer fee title to THC. The issue is that the agricultural conservation easement would merge into THC's fee title upon that transfer.

Various agencies desire that the agricultural conservation easement remain with a new easement holder. THC has requested that MRCA accept the easement. It is of great public benefit for the MRCA to receive this easement at no cost and for THC to get fee simple ownership of the 1615 acres. The attached agricultural conservation easement does require monitoring. THC has agreed to fund that permanent monitoring with its endowment sources. THC would fund the staff of the Mojave Desert Land Trust to do the monitoring and any required reporting for the MRCA. The Trust has experience with easement monitoring and is a common partner of THC. An agreement would solidify these responsibilities.