



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: October 19, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of approximately 2.5 acres, APNs 5549-006-023, 024, 025, 026, and 027, with the donor retaining an approximately 1,000 square-foot parking easement on APN 5549-006-024, in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of approximately 2.5 acres, APNs 5549-006-023, 024, 025, 026, and 027, with the donor retaining an approximately 1,000 square-foot parking easement on APN 5549-006-024, in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The five subject parcels being offered as a donation are part of a critical habitat linkage between the 101 Freeway and the rest of the Santa Monica Mountains to the west of the Cahuenga Pass. These properties, approximately 2.5 acres in total, are located directly across Mulholland Drive from (northwest of) the MRCA's 20.9-acre Hillpark Dedication open space, and within fewer than 1,000 feet from approximately 12 acres of other MRCA-owned open space properties and conservation easements.

In 2009, MRCA staff reached a deal with the owner of the subject properties, through the Mulholland Design Review process, to accept conservation easements over portions of each property as mitigation for biological impacts due to development. Those conservation easements were included as conditions of project approval for several residences that would have been constructed onsite. The property owner has since reconsidered developing the properties, and has offered them as a donation.

This donation offer is conditional on the owner retaining a private vehicle parking easement over a portion of the largest of these parcels, APN 5549-006-024. The actual parking area would likely be only several hundred square-feet in size, and

would not include the right to construct any buildings. Any adverse impacts resulting from the private parking area would be significantly less than if the site were developed as was originally proposed.

The subject parcels host a mix of oak woodland and chaparral habitat, and provide cover and foraging grounds for wildlife moving through the Cahunga Pass area north of Mulholland Drive.