



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Ballard Mountain parcels and authorize the acquisition of APN 2058-008-023, approximately 40 acres, Lobo Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Ballard Mountain parcels and the acquisition of APN 2058-008-023 within the Lobo Canyon watershed of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The subject parcel contains approximately 40 acres which includes the 2039' peak in the northwest portion of the parcel now known as Ballard Mountain in honor of John Ballard—a former slave and blacksmith in Los Angeles. The 3rd Supervisorial District has generously offered to fund the parcel acquisition.

As shown on the attached maps, the subject parcel is a key component in the Lobo Canyon watershed northwest of Kanan Road. The northern 10% of the parcel is considered golden eagle habitat by CDFW, and the surrounding natural lands contribute considerable biological and viewshed resources. The properties immediately adjacent to the south and east have land bridges across Kanan Road providing wildlife over-crossing at each location.

A Youth Employment Program (attached) was created; however, the scope of work for this project is wholly limited to the acquisition of Ballard Mountain and natural lands in Lobo Canyon and therefore, this project will not be appropriate for the employment of at-risk youth.