



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution in opposition to proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent the Upper Los Angeles River, and in support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, authorizing the use of the MRCA name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution opposing the proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent the Upper Los Angeles River, supporting Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, and authorizing the use of the MRCA name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, in the City of Los Angeles.

Background: The subject 16-acre property is located adjacent to the north bank of the Los Angeles River (via the paper street, Valleyheart Drive) in Studio City, near it's intersection with Whitsett Avenue. (The address is 4141 Whitsett Avenue.) It is designated as Opportunity Area #4 in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan.

Save Los Angeles River Open Space, an affiliate of Studio City Residents Association, have requested that the MRCA sign on to a letter (see attachment) to Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian (District 2) supporting his efforts to acquire the site as public open space, and opposing the recent requested zone change by the current owners. The current owners seek to develop the site with a 200-unit condominium complex.

While much of the property is developed with tennis courts, the approximately 10 acres of golf course and driving range remain unpaved, contributing much needed potential for stormwater capture to the watershed. The unpaved portion of the property also offers some habitat to birds and other wildlife in a highly developed

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area where such habitat is limited to non-existent. The proposal to develop the site with condominiums would eliminate these public benefits, and could also limit public access to the river bank.

Fiscal Impact: None.