



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of APNs 3243-013-009, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, and 065, 3243-018-007, totaling approximately 406 acres, located in the Lake Hughes area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District for the acquisition of APNs 3243-013-009, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, and 065, 3243-018-007, totaling approximately 406 acres, located in the Lake Hughes area.

Background: On June 3, 2015, the Governing Board authorized the acquisition of Phase I of this project comprising approximately 712 acres and the option to purchase Phase II, the 406 acres described above. The MRCA closed escrow on Phase I on December 1, 2015. At that time, the Governing Board also authorized entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). However, current RPOSD guidelines require that the MRCA resolution include additional language.

The subject properties are located in the Lake Hughes area, south of Lancaster Rd./West Avenue D. Mainly comprised of gently sloping hillside open space, the properties provide unobstructed views of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve to the northeast and borders the Angeles National Forest to the south.

Successful acquisition of this property will ensure contiguous protected open space in the north of the national forest in the Antelope Valley. Its historic features, desirable location, and recreational opportunities would make this property attractive additions to public open space and parkland in the region.