



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: December 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance from the County of Los Angeles a) a public access easement at 20330 Pacific Coast Highway, b) a public access and viewing easement at 6800 Westward Beach Road, and c) fee transfer of a portion of a new proposed beach access stairway at Malibu Pier, all in the City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance from the County of Los Angeles a) a public access easement at 20330 Pacific Coast Highway, b) a public access and viewing easement at 6800 Westward Beach Road, and c) fee transfer of a portion of a new proposed beach access stairway at Malibu Pier, all in the City of Malibu.

Background: The County of Los Angeles owns and manages several public access easements and fee parcels within the City of Malibu. Recently, the County has approached the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) regarding the transfer of two of its public access easements throughout the City and a fee title over a portion of its beachfront parcel at Malibu Pier, as explained in further detail below.

Public Access Easement at 20330 Pacific Coast Highway

The public access easement at 20330 Pacific Coast Highway was dedicated to the County of Los Angeles for public use pursuant to recorded Tract Map No. 24025. The County managed this easement as a public beach accessway up until its closure in 2002. Substantial repairs to the existing stairway onsite are required in order to reopen the site. The County approached the MRCA regarding the transfer of this easement as the MRCA has experience in developing and managing coastal accessways for safe public use. The site would remain closed until funding becomes available to repair the site.

Public Access Easement at 6800 Westward Beach Road

The County owns a public access easement on the bluff overlooking Zuma Beach at the intersection of Westward Beach Road and Birdview Avenue. This easement was dedicated to the County for pedestrian access and public viewing purposes pursuant a coastal development permit issued by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) in 1973. As part of the required dedication, the applicant improved the easement with a walkway and benches. A public stairway connects the easement to the road and the beach below. The easement is currently open for public use.

New Proposed Beach Access Stairway at Malibu Pier

The MRCA has been working with the County Department of Beaches and Harbors, State Parks, and the CCC to obtain the necessary entitlements to construct a new public beach accessway over the parking lot at Malibu Pier. The proposed stairway will be located partially on land owned by State Parks and land owned by the County. The MRCA would be managing the stairway following its construction. As such, the County desires to transfer fee title of the stairway portion on County land to the MRCA for ease of management operations.

Accepting the above-described public access easements and fee title for the proposed stairway portion on County land would keep these sites in the public domain and protect these coastal resources in perpetuity.