

MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens 570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100 Los Angeles, California 90065 Phone (323) 221-8900

## MEMORANDUM

TO:

The Governing Board

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

FROM:

DATE:

December 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Agenda Item VI(i): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of APNs 4491-004-005 and 4491-005-019, approximately 3-acres, adjacent Westridge Canyonback Wilderness Park in Mandeville Canyon, City of Los Angeles.

<u>Staff Recommendation</u>: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of the donation of APNs 4491-004-005 and 4491-005-019, totaling approximately 3-acres, located adjacent to Westridge Canyonback Wilderness Park in Mandeville Canyon, in the City of Los Angeles.

<u>Background</u>: The approximately 3-acre subject property to be donated is located on the west side of Mandeville Canyon Road, opposite from the Los Angeles Countyowned Mission Canyon Open Space. The location of these two donor parcels is ideal for facilitating wildlife movement between the County open space and the western half of Westridge Canyonback. This provides a rare habitat linkage across Mandeville Canyon Road. The subject properties contain primarily chaparral habitat.

The donor currently uses the part of APN 4491-004-055 adjacent to the street for private parking, and may wish to retain a parking easement over that portion of the property.

The subject donor property will require some fuel modification, but the cost is justified by the ecological public benefits of permanently preserving the property. The cost of fuel modification is already offset by brush clearance performed by the adjacent homeowners. Both fuel modification and staff time for the acceptance of the donation can be funded from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Area I.