



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(v): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of portions of APNs 2384-013-023, and 024 (3619 and 3623 Goodland Drive), approximately 0.4 acres, in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor and Coldwater Canyon watershed, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation of portions of APNs 2384-013-023, and 024 (3619 and 3623 Goodland Drive), totaling approximately 0.4 acres, in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor and Coldwater Canyon watershed, in the City of Los Angeles..

Background: The subject properties are approximately 0.6 acres and 0.5 acres in size, respectively. These hillside lots are located approximately 400 feet west of Wilacre Park, and both lie partially within Habitat Block No. 19 on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Eastern Santa Monica Mountain Habitat Linkage Planning Map. This habitat block allows direct access for wildlife to Habitat Block No. 21, which contains both Wilacre Park, and Fryman Canyon park.

The current property owner proposes to develop a single-family residence on each of the subject properties, but has consented to dedicating a significant portion of each lot to wildlife movement via restrictive covenants in favor of the MRCA. However, Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering has indicated that they will require the owner to provide street improvements on the unimproved portion of Alta Mesa Drive that abuts the subject properties to the south. Street improvements to Alta Mesa Drive would not be required if the abutting property were owned by a public agency, such as the MRCA.

The MRCA accepting fee simple ownership of portions of the subject properties would not only prevent a key habitat linkage from being narrowed by street improvements, but also provides greater assurance that this habitat linkage will be

permanently protected than a restrictive covenant would. This linkage is valuable to wildlife in the upper Coldwater Canyon area, despite impacts from fuel modification.

The property owner understands that it is their responsibility to provide staff with current title reports, and a metes-and-bounds legal description of each donation area. The owner will still record restrictive covenants in favor of the MRCA on each property that will protect additional area.