



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 8, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of an approximate 1.5-acre parcel (APN 4490-019-002) using Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Benefit Assessment District No. 2, Area I, funds in Mandeville Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acquisition of the 1.5-acre parcel (APN 4490-019-002) in Mandeville Canyon using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Benefit Assessment District No. 2, Area I, and adding said parcel to the Final Engineers Report.

Background: Mandeville Canyon is part of the eastern portion of the Santa Monica Mountains between Topanga Canyon and I-405 over the Sepulveda Pass. The residential development lining both sides of Mandeville Canyon Road poses a barrier to east-west migration of wildlife. The subject property (APN 4490-019-002) perfects a cross-road habitat linkage by joining two public ownerships.

The property abuts MRCA-owned Westridge Canyonback Wilderness Park to the east. The parcel is within the fuel modification zone for two adjacent properties with existing structures. It is near impossible to acquire land in Area I of Benefit Assessment District 2 without some permanent requirements. Fortunately all of the fuel modification area is accessible from Mandeville Canyon Road.

The purchase price is \$490,000. As a condition of the purchase agreement, the seller has requested a \$10,000 deposit into an escrow account upon the opening of the escrow period.