



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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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 XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of CFD 1, CFD 2016-1, and private funds to acquire five contiguous parcels (APNs 5565-029-011, -012, -013, -014, and -015) comprising approximately 0.64 acres on Bulwer Drive in Laurel Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acquisition of the use of CFD 1, CFD 2016-1, and private funds to acquire the five contiguous parcels (APNs 5565-029-011, 012, 013, 014, and 015) comprising approximately 0.64 acres on Bulwer Drive in Laurel Canyon.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), and locally interested parties have engaged in a multi-decade endeavor to protect land on the prominent Bulwer Drive ridgeline in upper Laurel Canyon. Via a recent settlement between the major Bulwer Drive landowner and City of Los Angeles, the MRCA was able to acquire ten contiguous lots for a \$250,000 contribution stretched over five years.

The MRCA now has the opportunity to purchase an additional five contiguous parcels (APNs 5565-029-011, 012, 013, 014, and 015) under the same ownership that comprise approximate 0.64 acres on the unpaved portion of Bulwer Drive.

The subject Bulwer Drive parcels are on a narrow, predominantly dirt road that is exceptionally visible from both Mulholland Drive and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The parcels are part of a heavily used wildlife corridor that links the Laurel Canyon and Nichols Canyon watersheds. The attached figure shows how they fit into the Conservancy's 2017 adopted Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map. Further paving and development along Bulwer Drive would be necessary to develop the subject parcels and would result in unavoidable significant adverse visual and biological impacts. The subject parcels are not within the fuel modification zone(s) of any nearby structures.

The purchase price is \$95,000. The majority of this purchase price is expected to be funded by private donations.