



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII(q): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of donation of fee simple or a conservation easement over APN 5464-011-021 in Elyria Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of donation of fee simple or a conservation easement over APN 5464-011-021 in Elyria Canyon, City of Los Angeles.

Background: The MRCA's Elyria Canyon Park is one of the flagship open space areas in all of the northeast Los Angeles hilltop systems and one of the best protected native walnut woodland areas in the extended Santa Monica Mountains system. The owner of the subject parcel that abuts the park is open to donating various-size fee simple portions or conservation easements. The walnut woodland within the parcel is high quality. The main issue is the agency's absorption of additional permanent brush clearance obligation. Because of the sensitivity of the walnut woodland habitat, the MRCA has continued to provide annual brush clearance in Elyria Canyon Park rather than subject the habitat to clearance by non-MRCA-hired entities. Because of the core habitat importance of Elyria Canyon Park and the direct habitat contribution of over three acres of the subject donation parcel, staff recommends authorization to accept either fee simple or conservation easements from the property or the entirety of the parcel.