



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 5, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 4434-007-018 and 019 (approximately 15 acres) in the Santa Maria Canyon watershed using Proposition A funds and other grant funds, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize the acquisition of APNs 4434-007-018 and 019 in the Garapito-Santa Maria Canyon watersheds using Proposition A funds and other grant funds.

Background: The subject 15-acre property is located in the upper Garapito Canyon tributary of Topanga Canyon. There currently is a substantial east-west gap in the connectivity of public lands between Topanga State Park, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, and Edmund D. Edelman-Summit Valley Park. The public acquisition of APNs 4434-007-018 and 019 provides a major stepping stone to fill this gap.

In 2012 the MRCA was awarded a \$266,498 competitive trails grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Summit Valley - Mulholland Gateway Park Gap Closure project. To date the owners of the two parcels identified in the grant application have remained unwilling sellers. With the grant close to exhausting all possible time extensions, the District agreed to add the subject single ownership of APNs 4434-007-018 and 019 as eligible for the funding because it secured similar objectives of the Los Angeles County Regional Trails Plan. In the interim, staff had expended approximately \$22,000 on multiple costs pursuing the original ownerships specified in the grant. The owner of APNs 4434-007-018 and 019 has agreed to sell the parcels at the appraised value of \$385,000.

To make up the approximately \$140,000 shortfall, staff was authorized at the October 2018 meeting to apply to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 68 funds. Staff submitted that grant application the week of November

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26, 2018. An item to consider that grant application is on the December 10, 2018 Conservancy agenda.

The County of Los Angeles North Area Plan Trails map shows the Santa Maria Canyon Trail alignment traverses the subject property in an overall east-west direction. This trail provides a connection from dirt Mulholland Drive to Santa Maria Road and Edmund D. Edelman – Summit Valley Park. Most of the trail is already a neighborhood social trail.

The subject property is entirely within the County-designated Santa Monica Mountains Significant Ecological Area (SEA).