



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: January 9, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution confirming the acceptance of donation of approximately 250 acres (APNs 3244-014-051, 052; 3247-017-025, 029, 055, 058, 060, 078, 090, 092, 093, 094 and 3247-018-034), pursuant to Resolution No. 96-52, in the Marple Canyon tributary of the Santa Clara River, Unincorporated Castaic area, Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution confirming the acceptance of donation of approximately 250 acres (APNs 3244-014-051, 052; 3247-017-025, 029, 055, 058, 060, 078, 090, 092, 093, 094 and 3247-018-034), pursuant to Resolution No. 96-52, in the Marple Canyon tributary of the Santa Clara River.

Background: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Resolution No. 96-52 authorized the Executive Director to accept donations of land subject to confirmation by the Governing Board. In order to meet a calendar year deadline for donation purposes, MRCA agreed to accept approximately 238 acres of the above mentioned 250 acres, namely APNs: 3244-014-051, 052; 3247-017-025, 055, 058, 060, 078, 090, 092, 093, 094 and 3247-018-034. The remaining approximate 11 acres (APN 3247-017-029) will be conveyed to the MRCA by a separate instrument at a later date. The owners had previously pursued development of the property with sprawling motocross facilities and a business park.

The vast majority of the combined 250 acres are located between the north- and south-bound lanes of the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5) and are strategically located to provide habitat linkage between open space lands on either side of Interstate 5—the most significant impediment to wildlife movement in the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection. The subject parcels contain under-represented habitats within the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection with mid-elevation grasslands along with coastal sage and riparian mulefat/willow scrub. One USGS blue line stream, Marple Creek, drains the property and provides over one acre of jurisdictional waters.

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Several special status and regionally endemic species have been documented in the vicinity of the subject parcels including, but not limited to: Least Bell's vireo, western spadefoot toad, loggerhead shrike, and burrowing owl. Additionally, the California Natural Diversity Database documents several plant species in the vicinity including: San Fernando Valley spineflower, slender mariposa lily and round-leaved filaree.

The northern subject parcels abut an approximate 6.9 acre MRCA-owned parcel, APN 3247-017-902, that contains an Interstate 5 undercrossing.

Preservation of the combined 250 acres represents an integral linkage of the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection.