



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 3, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of APNs 5580-081-022 and 023 and accepting private funds for said acquisition near Griffith Park, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize acquisition of APNs 5580-081-022 and 023 and accepting private funds for said acquisition near Griffith Park.

Background: Employing a combination of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 funding and private donations, the MRCA to date has assembled a cluster of four parcels along the southern border of Griffith Park by Carolus Drive. These existing parcels are on a well-wooded north-facing slope and are clearly contiguous with the Griffith Park core habitat area. The long term ecological viability of Griffith Park depends on the protection of additional surrounding lands. The local community also donated \$15,000 to help with brush clearance costs.

The community has been attempting to acquire two additional contiguous parcels APNs 5580-081-022 and 023 for a few years in the interim. The MRCA has submitted an offer less than two weeks ago to the owners to acquire and hold the two parcels. The full purchase price would be paid for with private donations. There is no response yet on the offer but its receipt was acknowledged. There is acquisition competition from a developer seeking permits to build next to the MRCA's easternmost parcel in the above described cluster of MRCA parcels. This advance action is taken to enhance the MRCA's offer with the ability to close escrow sooner. This type of transaction is a prime example of the MRCA's ability to protect land cooperatively in the spirit of its Open Space District and two Community Facilities Districts in this area.