



## 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: June 5, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easement over portions of APN 5577-014-009 (3020 Lakeridge Drive), approximately 1.8 acres, in the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and adjacent to the Lake Hollywood Reservoir, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of conservation easement of approximately 1.8 acres over portions of APN 5577-014-009 (3020 Lakeridge Drive), located in the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and adjacent to the Lake Hollywood Reservoir, in the City of Los Angeles.

Background: The currently undeveloped 2.9-acre subject property sits adjacent to the western shore of the Lake Hollywood Reservoir. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) owns and manages both the reservoir and the adjacent utility corridor and open space property to the north of the subject property. The current owner intends to develop the subject property with a single-family home, however, the majority of the property, including a grove of coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*), will remain undeveloped. The subject property will eventually be accessed from the northern terminus of Lakeridge Drive, through an existing access easement on LADWP property. The owner wishes to see the remainder of the site preserved and available for wildlife, and is offering a conservation easement to the MRCA.

Development is increasingly restricting opportunities for wildlife movement between the Cahuenga Pass and Lake Hollywood. LADWP's chain link and barbed wire fencing currently prevents access to the reservoir's fresh water and the habitat immediately surrounding it. Staff is currently studying the potential for enabling wildlife access to the reservoir's water under a Proposition 1 grant.

Acceptance of this conservation easement will help to ensure that north-south wildlife movement remains possible on the western side of the reservoir regardless of the status of the LADWP security fencing. A natural drainage exists on the subject property amongst the oak tree habitat. This is a potential source of fresh water for wildlife on the site following seasonal rains. If LADWP becomes willing to alter the reservoir's perimeter fencing in the future, this conservation easement would potentially facilitate critical access to a source of fresh water for wildlife.

The property owner understands that it is their responsibility to provide staff with a current title report, and a metes-and-bounds legal description of the conservation easement area.

Fiscal Impact: The only costs associated with acceptance of the subject conservation easement would be staff time, and nominal administrative costs associated with recording.