



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 2, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No.2 (Area G) funds to acquire properties in Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and Encino, City of Los Angeles, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2019A public auction.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the expenditure of not more than \$18,000 of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No.2 (Area G) funds to acquire properties at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2019A public auction.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has had great success purchasing parcels through the Los Angeles County public auction process. Auction participation since 2010 has resulted in the acquisition of high quality open space purchased at low cost to the MRCA.

Staff is investigating available parcels in Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and Encino. The list of available parcels shrinks as the auction approaches, due to the payment of back taxes by the property owners. For any parcel where staff is the final bidder, a payment for purchase price beyond the \$5,000 registration fee needs to be paid within 30 days after the auction.

The proposed action would constitute the Authority's approval to use qualifying Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No.2, Area G funds to purchase properties that are integral to the protection of habitat and view resources in Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and Encino.

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Fair market value of properties is essentially established at the auction with the bidding process or by sale for just the minimum bid (back taxes). Title is cleared by the auction process. The proposed \$18,000 cap could acquire one parcel or many parcels. The pool of available parcels is not set until a couple of days before the auction, which will take place on October 21st and 22nd, 2019.