



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 1, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) acceptance of a conservation easement over APN 2552-001-008, and (b) acceptance of annual easement monitoring funds and initial project set up fee, from Natural Resources Group, Big Tujunga Wash area, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement using the form of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife over APN 2552-001-008, and associated short and long-term funds, from Natural Resources Group in the upper Big Tujunga Wash area.

Background: Natural Resources Group, Inc. (NRG) is a private company that has recently established a Mitigation Bank on a property in the Big Tujunga Wash adjacent to Angeles National Forest land. This bank is designed to sell mitigation credits both for riparian habitat loss and impacts to a Federally-listed fish species, the Santa Ana sucker.

In order for these credits to be sold, NRG is required by State and Federal law to have a third party hold a conservation easement over the property. NRG contacted MRCA and asked if MRCA would be willing to accept the easement over APN 2552-001-008, because MRCA currently owns approximately 120 acres in close proximity to the parcel.

MRCA would, upon recordation of the conservation easement, be paid an annual easement monitoring fee to conduct an annual visit to assess whether the conditions of the easement are being met. In addition, the MRCA would be provided one time project set up fee principally for the Legal Division. To ensure that the MRCA would be funded for any necessary legal recourse for easement violations, an additional increment of annual funding will be built in to pay for insurance or to build up a Legal Fund. Please see attached maps and draft easement document.