



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 2, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing amending an existing conservation easement in exchange for new conservation easement area of equal or greater size on APN 4467-003-021, and acceptance of processing fee, Ramirez Canyon, City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing amending existing conservation/trail easements in exchange for new conservation easement areas of equal or greater size all on APN 4467-003-021, and accepting a processing fee in Ramirez Canyon.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has two abutting conservation/trail easements on APN 4467-003-021 on the eastern ridgeline of Ramirez Canyon. At some point the Coast Slope Trail will go through one or both of these easements. The property has been under the same ownership since the MRCA obtained the first easement. To both help with the owner's development layout and to minimize annual fuel modification in the overall conservation easement areas, they have made a request to swap equal or greater in size easement areas on the one parcel. The attached figure shows the area requested to be removed from the easement and the areas proposed to be added.

Both MRCA easements have trail rights. No trail rights would be given up unless they are exchanged for more desirable trail rights. The final amount and quality of habitat protected will benefit the MRCA and public.

Staff has added a request for an up front MRCA legal staff payment and for the removal of the MRCA's obligation to pay the same owner \$75,000 to secure fee title to an adjacent parcel on which the MRCA now has a long rectangular conservation easement separated by a thin strip of land from Ramirez Canyon Park.

An agreement will need to be written up to tie all these elements together. All legal description costs would be borne by the landowner. The amount of required MRCA staff costs would be determined on the complexity of the transaction.