



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 VI(e) Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of conservation easements to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority over all or a portion of APNs 3209-008-908, 909, 910, 911, 912; 3210-009-907, and 908 in Soledad Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of conservation easements over all or portions of APNs 3209-008-908, 909, 910, 911, 912; 3210-009-907, 908 to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA), Soledad Canyon.

Background: As a condition of certain permits, regulatory agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), sometimes require that an authorized third-party hold a conservation easement (CE) over lands used for mitigation purposes. The DMCA recently was approved by CDFW as an entity authorized to hold such third party CEs.

This item involves three properties owned and managed by the MRCA, referred to as Bobcat Canyon (APNs 3209-008-908, and 909), Robin's Nest (3209-008-910, 911, and 912), and Stickleback Ranch (APNs 3210-009-907, and 908). MRCA is working on current and future mitigation arrangements for these properties. All parcels are clustered near each other within the Los Angeles County designated Santa Clara River Significant Ecological Area.

CDFW recently required the need for recording a CE over the Stickleback Ranch parcels as a condition of mitigation targeted for the property. This proposed authorization would also preemptively assist the MRCA if the need arises for the other two MRCA Soledad Canyon properties.

The MRCA would have to pay all costs associated with providing such easements to the DMCA but said expenses can be charged to the respective mitigation funding sources. The DMCA Governing Board has authorized the acceptance of conservation easements on all of the above-listed APNs if all costs are borne by other parties.