



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: February 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment of Resolution No. 19-38 to include the acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 4379-032-006 to enhance wildlife corridor along Mulholland Drive, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing amendment of Resolution No. 19-38 to include the acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 4379-032-006 to enhance wildlife corridor along Mulholland Drive, City of Los Angeles.

Background: On March 6, 2019, the Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 19-38, which authorized the sale of the portion of MRCA property (APN 4379-032-900) while retaining a conservation easement on a portion of said property in order to resolve an outstanding dispute over an encroachment and retaining wall with the neighboring property owner at 14220 Mulholland Drive (APN 4379-032-006).

Simultaneously, as part of the permitting process for proposed development over the subject private property, MRCA Planning Division staff had been working to secure a deed restriction over a separate portion of APN 43032-006 to preserve an important wildlife corridor through this area. Subsequent to the approval of Resolution No. 19-38, Staff unsuccessfully attempted to reach a global settlement of both the encroachment and deed restriction issues with representatives of the private property owner.

In response to the Governing Board's direction at its January 2021 meeting, staff met with representatives with the neighboring property owner and believes that a compromise is feasible. The property owner is willing to record a conservation easement over a portion of their property so long as that the existing, low impact improvements are allowed to remain. Staff believes that allowing these improvements to remain while including standard conservation easement land use prohibitions will provide the desired open space protection. Additionally staff

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strongly recommends that this agreement will require the property owner to remove any and all chain link fence on its property or under its control to be replaced with “post and rail” or other wildlife friendly fencing approved by MRCA staff.