



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 14, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of APNs 4383-006-038 and 4384-034-001 in Acquisition Area B (City of Los Angeles in Benedict Canyon area) to the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 Engineer's Report, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of APNs 4383-006-038 and 4384-034-001 in Acquisition Area B (City of Los Angeles in Benedict Canyon area) to the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 Engineer's Report, Los Angeles.

Background: Recently staff made a formal offer to purchase parcels which have been accepted by the owners and the parties have preliminarily agreed to the terms of a Purchase and Sale Agreements contingent upon addition to the Engineer's Report and subsequent Governing Board approval of acquisition. Acquisition of the parcels would provide significant special benefit and ensure that this part of Benedict Canyon would remain undeveloped.

The parcels were not included in the District No. 1 Engineer's Report. However, a combination of community support for the acquisition and the recent availability of the parcels warrant their addition to the Engineer's Report.

APN 4383-006-038 is located on the east side of Benedict Canyon Road in the City of Los Angeles, approximately 176 north of Portola Drive. It also abuts a parcel currently owned by the MRCA obtained through a previous donation. The main value of this set of properties is for viewshed and safety on this busy cross-mountain artery. However, it also includes some high quality chaparral vegetation.

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APN 4384-034-001 is located in the Benedict Canyon area, just east of the terminus of Clear View Drive. It is currently undeveloped and would provide a valuable addition to the protected open space in the area. Like APN 4383-006-038, this parcel's main value is also viewshed, but it will also maintain a swath of open space as a potential wildlife corridor. The parcel also includes high quality chaparral vegetation.