



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 5, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Excess Funds to acquire property within Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2609, and use public, private, and in-lieu-fee mitigation funds for said acquisition, Upper Santa Clara River watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Excess Funds to acquire APN 3209-011-007 within Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement 2609, and use public, private, and in-lieu-fee mitigation funds for said acquisition, Upper Santa Clara River watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process.

The County Treasurer and Tax Collector has provided an Agreement to sign. Chapter 8 Agreement Number 2609 contains one parcel totaling 40.00 acres in Soledad Canyon. In order for the County Treasurer and Tax Collector to finalize these agreements, the MRCA must provide a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the parcel. The proposed action provides the Treasurer and Tax Collector with the authorization they need to continue processing an agreement.

The table below includes the parcel, its size, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. The cost estimate is projected through August 2008. Unfortunately, the cost of the parcels increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. That rate of increase is approximately 1.5 percent per month, with an

additional 18 percent annual fee. A brief description of the parcel follows along with attached aerial photograph with the parcel boundaries.

**Agreement Number 2609**

<b>APN</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Price</b>
3209-011-007	40.00	Soledad Canyon	\$3,100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40.00</b>		<b>\$3,100</b>

**Soledad Canyon**

This very large parcel is near, though not adjacent to, existing MRCA parcels on the north side of Soledad Canyon. It contains portions of a creek that flow southwest into the Upper Santo Clara river. The majority of the parcel is within an unnamed canyon just east of Hughes Canyon. This parcel is available at an exceptionally low price of approximately \$78 per acre. The attached resolution authorizes up to \$6,000 to allow for fees, acquisition expenses, and because the County may take some time to complete the Agreement.

The Soledad-Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) project is focused on the protection of an adequate habitat linkage system between the Angeles National Forest south of State Route (SR) 14 (San Gabriel Mountains) and te part of the national forest north of SR 14 (Sierra Pelona-Castaic-Sierra Madre ranges). This property falls within the boundaries of the CAPP. In addition, the protection of rare and endangered species habitat in the Santa Clara River and its tributaries were, and still are, a primary focus.