



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 15, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acquisition of approximately 0.33 acres in the Pacific Palisades (APN 4416-002-014) using Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area H) funds..**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of approximately 0.33 acres in the Pacific Palisades (APN 4416-002-014) using Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area H) funds.

Background: The subject 0.33-acre parcel is located between Sunset Boulevard and the Los Liones section of Topana State Park. It sits across a narrow, gravel-surfaced street from actual State Park property. That State property provides a small, commonly used parking area. Legal public access is from Via Nicholas.

The moderately sloped property leads up to a bluff edge with great views of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Self-Realization Fellowship facility, and the ocean to the south. It has been difficult to find an affordable property in the Pacific Palisades that has good public access, is usable, geologically stable, and meets the expectations of a broad range of concerned community members. Staff vetted this property with the Council Office and key members of the Community Council. There were no unfavorable responses. The District No. 2 Citizens Oversight Committee also readily adopted a resolution determining that the property was consistent with all the requirements determined in the Final Engineers Report.

The plan is to open the property as a neighbor destination overlook that would be open normal park hours from sunrise to sunset. Some attractive non-native trees provide some shade and landscape relief on an otherwise grassland site. The eastern edge of the property supports oak woodland and rich chaparral elements on steep terrain.

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The property is currently fenced. The attached photograph is taken from outside the fence on Via Nicholas. Maintenance should be limited to a small amount of weed whipping between the bluff edge and Via Nicholas. Staff has reserved approximately \$10,000 of additional Area H funds to construct an attract fence to exclude night time users.

Details of the transaction can be discussed in closed session.