



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 15, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing advance payment for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to the California Department of Transportation on four surplus Valley Circle Boulevard and 101 Freeway interchange area properties, pending payment from the City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing advance payment of up to \$20,000 for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to the California Department of Transportation on four surplus Valley Circle Boulevard and 101 Freeway interchange area properties (Director's Deed Nos. DD48060-01-01, DD48067-01-01, DD48068-01-01 and DD1505-02-01) pending payment from the City of Los Angeles.

Background: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) has undergone a multi-year process to acquire four open space parcels located in the northeast quadrant of the Valley Circle Boulevard -101 Freeway interchange area in Woodland Hills. The Conservancy is in the final stages of the Transfer of Jurisdiction process from Caltrans being conducted by the Department General Services. Caltrans must receive payment soon or the properties will be put out for auction. An aerial photograph of the four parcels and watershed design project concepts for each parcel are attached.

The Conservancy staff has enlisted the help of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to collect funds for the acquisition. The Conservancy has already authorized using its funds for half of the \$140,100 acquisition price. The Conservancy has a standing resolution authorizing it to entering into any necessary agreements with the MRCA to accept funds.

Part of the pooled funding for the non-Conservancy funded part of the acquisition is funds pledged by City of Los Angeles 3rd District Councilmember Dennis Zine.

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The funds are part of the 3rd District account within the City of Los Angeles Real Property Trust Fund. The 5th Council District Office just used \$15,000 from its account to contribute to the option payment for the MRCA's pending acquisition at Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive. The turn around time took just five weeks. However, most likely Caltrans will demand full payment sooner than the City money becomes available. If the City Council has taken action to expend the funds, the funds exist, and the exact same process was just undertaken for another MRCA project, the advance of funds by the MRCA appears to have minimal risk. It is too difficult for the Conservancy or Caltrans to be the direct recipient of the subject City funds.

In short the proposed action authorizes the MRCA to advance up to \$20,000 to Caltrans pending reimbursement from the City of Los Angeles.