



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 1, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration or resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation of both a conservation easement and fee simple transfer of portions of APN 4455-058-004 in the Cold Creek and Stokes Canyon Watersheds, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of both a conservation easement and fee simple transfer of portions of APN 4455-058-004 in the Cold Creek and Stokes Canyon Watersheds, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The owner of an approximately 25-acre property (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 4455-058-004) in the Stokes Canyon and Cold Creek watersheds has offered to donate a conservation easement over, and/or fee title of, a portion of the property to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The subject property is located on Mulholland Highway, about 650 feet east of the 588-acre King Gillette Ranch. King Gillette Ranch is owned and managed by the MRCA, in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area unit of the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and California State Parks. The property is divided by a ridge: the northerly portion drains to Stokes Canyon and the southerly portion drains to Cold Creek. A house and driveway currently exists on the southern approximately five acres of the property.

The owner is offering to donate the area from approximately 10 yards north of the ridgeline to the northerly property line, consisting of approximately 16 acres. The subject donation is vegetated, hilly, and largely undisturbed. The owner has indicated that the property is already deed restricted, but the owner wants to ensure that the protections last and as such, is interested in donating the property. The property is currently on the market. The owner is ready offer a conservation easement immediately. He may be able to offer fee title prior to the sale of the property to any prospective buyer. The proposed action would allow the MRCA to accept a conservation easement and/or fee title of the property.