

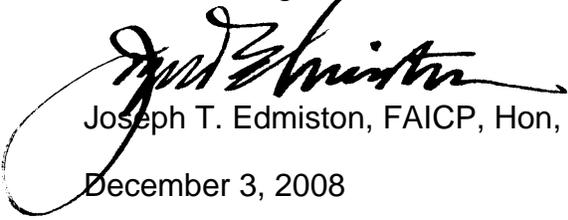


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 3, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing continuation of the Operational License Agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the management of the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into an additional five year term for the Non-Exclusive License Agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the management and operation of the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve.

Background: The original Non-Exclusive License Agreement came into effect November 2003 as a condition of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's acquisition of the nearly 3000-acre Ahmanson Ranch property from Washington Mutual Bank. The California Department of General Services (DGS) required that the Conservancy enter into a license agreement with MRCA for management of the property. The attached document was prepared by DGS pursuant to the Ahmanson Ranch Property Acquisition Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions, dated October 18, 2003.

MRCA owns the westerly adjoining approximately-2600-acre portion of the former ranch, pursuant to the Ahmanson Ranch Specific Plan development agreement conditions, which resulted in the 1998 dedication of the property. Since MRCA already operates and manages all Conservancy land in addition to its own parklands, this license agreement is a formality specific to the former Ahmanson property. Extending the term of the agreement for another five years to November 2013 formally authorizes the continuation of MRCA's essential services. These of course include resource protection (including sensitive and endangered species), public access, interpretive programs, trails, special events and projects consistent with the license agreement and the park's resource management plan.