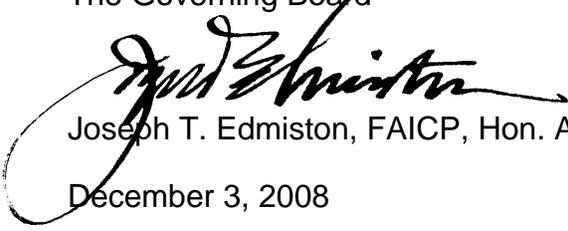


# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
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Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 3, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the release of in lieu fee mitigation funding to the City of Santa Clarita (Open Space District) to be applied to the acquisition and/or restoration of the Robin's Nest property (APNs 3209-008-012, 3209-008-013, 3209-008-016 in upper Soledad Canyon, in exchange for funding applied towards the acquisition of APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008, and 009 unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the release of up to \$300,000 of in lieu fee mitigation funding to the City of Santa Clarita (Open Space District) to be applied to the acquisition and/or restoration of the Robin's Nest property (APNs 3209-008-012, 3209-008-013, 3209-008-016 in upper Soledad Canyon, in exchange for funding applied towards the acquisition of APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008, and 009 unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The City of Santa Clarita staff agreed earlier this year to contribute \$100,000 towards the acquisition of four parcels in Agua Dulce Canyon that are part of the Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan and part the South Coast Missing Linkages San Gabriel - Castaic Linkage between the two disjunct portions of the Angeles National Forest. The Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) has put this deal together. These are the same parcels addressed in agenda item X.

The main funding comes from an approved \$750,000 grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). Other contributors are the MRCA with a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 12 grant, the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority, and Los Angeles County Proposition A Excess funds through the MRCA.

Because the RMC grant to the MRCA was \$150,000 less than requested and because the MRCA has temporarily exhausted the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District's Excess Fund pot, additional funding is needed to complete the acquisition. Staff has

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addressed this issue with the City's staff and come up with a solution of the MRCA helping the City with an extra-territorial acquisition in exchange for a greater City contribution on the four subject Agua Dulce Canyon parcels. The City has ample funding within the allowable zone of its Open Space District. The MRCA has some limited in lieu fee acquisition money (approximately \$75,000) available that could be applied to the City's Robin Nest parcel in the upper Soledad Canyon (Santa Clara River). That amount could grow too over the next two months as the Robin's Nest acquisition comes to closure following a February 2009 Wildlife Conservation Board meeting.