



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 6, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the granting of an access easement to the National Park Service along the Topanga Ridge Motorway portion of APN 4453-024-902, Cold Creek watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the granting of an access easement to the National Park Service along the Topanga Ridge Motorway portion of APN 4453-024-902 in the Cold Creek watershed.

Background: The Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT), a non-profit land trust, is seeking hardship funds from the National Park Service to have one of its parcels acquired. To facilitate that transaction it is important for the National Park Service to have perfected easement rights to MRT's parcel. It will benefit land acquisition efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to provide a short easement over an MRCA parcel at no cost. The subject easement would be over the existing, unpaved Topanga Ridge Motorway. The attached aerial photograph shows the proposed easement on MRCA-owned APN 4453-024-902 to benefit MRT-owned APN 44438-033-058. The easement would essentially extend northeasterly from the intersection of Stunt, Schueren, and Saddle Peak roads.