



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 1, 2009

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of Proposition K application to the City of Los Angeles for the acquisition of property in the south western corner of the San Gabriel Mountains.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing submission of a Proposition K application in an amount not to exceed \$\$2,000,000 to the City of Los Angeles for the acquisition of property in the south western corner of the San Gabriel Mountains

Background: Proposition K was adopted by the City of Los Angeles voters in 1996. With the support of City Council District 12 and 7 offices, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) was approached by the Land Conservation Services group to apply for Proposition K funding for a portion of the approximately 800 unprotected acres of the old Elsmere Canyon landfill site first owed by BFI, then BKK and now an LLC. The 400 acre portion of the property in the Santa Clara River watershed was donated to the MRCA several years ago. The remaining portion is in the Los Angeles River watershed comprising portions of the upper Bull Creek and Grapevine Canyon watersheds. The State Department of General Services appraised the parcel approximately six months ago. The property would have numerous trail connections to the City trail network within and around the Cascades Golf Course and associated business park.

The MRCA is the best equipped agency to apply for the funding and to complete the acquisition. The proposed application that is due July 13th most likely will be for a subset of the property that is within the City limits and appraises at \$1,000,000 which appears to be the maximum grant award in the subject category. The bulk of the application will be prepared by Land Conservation Services. In all cases the Proposition K language requires that the City retain an easement or fee simple interest in any property acquired with said funding.

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The attached resolution includes specific element called for in the Proposition K guidelines for the open space acquisition category.