

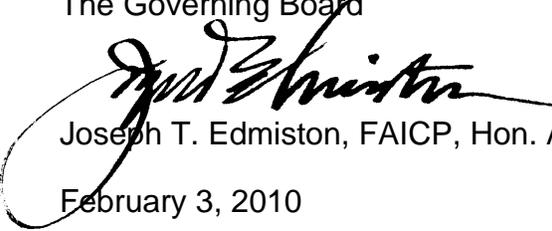


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: February 3, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easements from the City of Santa Clarita over portions of APNs 3210-014-270, 3210-014-271, 3210-014-272 and 3211-016-270 not to exceed 126-acres near Agua Dulce and Soledad Canyons, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of conservation easements from the City of Santa Clarita over portions of APNs 3210-014-270, 3210-014-271, 3210-014-272 and 3211-016-270 near Agua Dulce and Soledad Canyons.

Background: The City of Santa Clarita is using a large open space multi-parcel property as mitigation for City-related impacts to riparian habitat. The set-aside of these conservation easements has been negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game. The total acreage of the easements being offered is approximately 125 acres. The total size of the City's Wagoner open space property on which these easements will be located is approximately 425 acres.

The subject properties are located on either side of the Antelope Valley Freeway, less than 2.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Agua Dulce Canyon and Soledad Canyon Roads. (See attached maps.) The proposed easements encompass several riparian drainages and a mix of coastal scrub, riparian scrub, scrub oak, California juniper, Arroyo willow, and chaparral habitat. According to biological studies provided by the City, special status plant species located onsite include slender mariposa lily, Peirson's morning glory, and Palmer's grappling hook. Wildlife species observed onsite include deer, desert cottontail, California pocket mouse, ash-throated flycatcher, and several species of raptors and lizards.

The only cost to the MRCA related to acceptance of these easements will be staff time. Staff will attempt to recover a portion of those costs.