

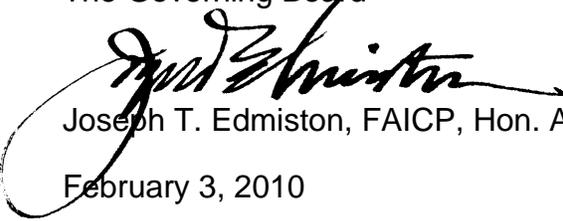


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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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 VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acquisition of conservation easement using in-lieu fees over portions of APN 4453-016-004 not to exceed 7-acres near Carbon Creek, Carbon Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of conservation easement using in-lieu fees over portions of APN 4453-016-004 not to exceed 7-acres near Carbon Creek, in Carbon Canyon.

Background: To date, there is no protected land in Carbon Canyon. All of the Santa Monica Mountains park agencies are working towards routing the Coastal Slope Trail through Carbon Canyon on an east-west route. The exact final alignment cannot be determined until interests in land are acquired in at least five parcels in the area. The subject parcel abuts at least four of the parcels being considered, making it valuable for a short section of trail, and even more valuable for trail viewshed. The total easement area will not exceed 7 acres, but will probably cover 5 acres of the 10-acre parcel. (See maps.)

The seller is motivated to protect the Santa Monica Mountains. The easement will not interfere with access to existing homes or a future residence on the subject lot. The easement will encompass a section of Carbon Creek that is a blue-line stream with perennial flow. Also included will be a deeply incised tributary which terminates at Rambla Pacifico. The blue-line stream portion of the easement supports sycamore, oak, and willow habitat, as well as several perennial aquatic species. A concrete Arizona crossing (see photos) bisects Carbon Creek and the proposed easement. The total amount of riparian habitat to be acquired shall not be less than 0.5 acres.

The funding source will be in-lieu mitigation fees specifically earmarked to permanently protect riparian habitat. The riparian resources of Carbon Creek warrant such additional protection.

Prices and terms of the transaction will be discussed in closed session.