

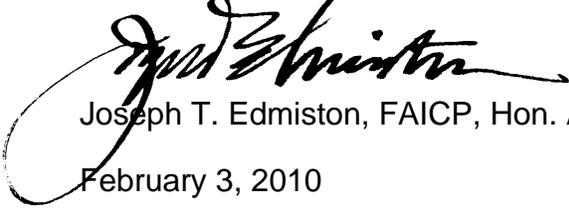


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & 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 XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing the transfer of fee title to 15.4 acres of land and appurtenant easements of King Gillette Ranch to the National Park Service, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the transfer of fee title to 15.4 acres of land and appurtenant easements of King Gillette Ranch to the National Park Service, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: On September 22, 2008, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to serve as matching funds for National Park Service's Centennial Challenge Cost-Share Program for the development of an Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch. The Centennial program required a 1:1 match of non-federal funds. National Park Service (NPS) entered into a task agreement with the MRCA for \$1,540,000 of Centennial funds.

Subsequently, NPS received approximately \$10 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for the Visitor Center project. NPS solicitors determined that in order to expend these funds, NPS needed to have land tenure in the areas where federal dollars are being spent. Because the ARRA funds have a tight deadline for expenditure, the most expeditious method of giving NPS land tenure was to transfer the land to them. It was further determined that the \$1.54 million Centennial program match did not have to be only in cash but could be in land value. Staff proposes conveying \$1.54 million dollars worth of land at and around the site of the proposed visitor center. A recent appraisal sets the value of the property at \$100,000 an acre. Additionally, NPS will need easements for access over the main entry road to the property and for grading, construction and utility connections. A draft map indicating the location of the 15.4 acres is attached.