



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 14, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of parcels in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement No. 2647, using public, private, and mitigation funds, Chatsworth-Deerlake Highlands and Antelope Valley, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of parcels in Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreement No. 2647, using public, private, and mitigation funds, Chatsworth-Deerlake Highlands and Antelope Valley, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process.

The table below for Chapter 8 Agreement 2647 includes the parcels, sizes, general location, and current cost to the MRCA. The cost estimate is projected through October 2011. Unfortunately, the cost of the parcels increases substantially every year as penalties and back taxes increase. That rate of increase is approximately 1.5 percent per month, for a total of 18 percent annually. A brief description of the parcel follows along with attached aerial photograph with the parcel boundaries.

Agreement Number 2647

APN	Acreage	Location	Price
2818-009-010	0.07	Deerlake Highlands area, northern Chatsworth	\$1,600
3318-003-035	1.31	Antelope Valley, near Edwards AFB	\$2,600
TOTALS	1.38		\$4,200

Deerlake Highlands

This parcel is located in Brown's Canyon in the Santa Susanna Mountains. It contains high quality northern mixed chaparral. Its location is proximate to other Deerlake Highlands parcels that the MRCA has previously purchased through the tax default process. It includes a portion of an equestrian trail from Lower Devil Canyon heading into central Browns Canyon.

Antelope Valley

This area has high ecological value. Edwards Air Force Base personnel have encouraged conservation agencies to acquire parcels near the southern boundary of the base, in order to extend the buffer area around the base. This desert scrub parcel contains a section of desert wash, in the northeast corner of Los Angeles County.