



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Ramirez Canyon Park
5810 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 7, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 5570-024-064, not to exceed 0.20 acres, for wildlife movement purposes, adjacent to Briar Summit Open Space Preserve, Nichols Canyon, City of Los Angeles**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement of less than 0.20 acres for wildlife movement purposes on APN 5570-024-064, at 7711 Firenze Avenue, adjacent to the Briar Summit Open Space Preserve.

Background: The proposed conservation easement is located on a portion of a developed residential property at 7711 Firenze Avenue, adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the MRCA's 52-acre Briar Summit Open Space Preserve. The 100-acre Briar Summit habitat block is situated at a crucial mid-point between the the Wrightwood Open Space habitat block to the north, and the western Nichols Canyon habitat block to the south. There are currently no unfenced connections that allow for north-south wildlife movement between Briar Summit and the Nichols Canyon habitat block. This easement will remove an existing fence and will allow wildlife to move between the Briar Summit habitat block and the western Nichols Canyon habitat block through the Woodrow Wilson Drive-Seattle Drive street complex.

As stated in the attached Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy letter dated May 26, 2010, this easement will allow for Fire Department-required fuel modification, landscaping of plants native to the eastern Santa Monica Mountains and associated irrigation (non-overhead), boulders, and two staggered, 4-foot high, wooden post and rail fences 18 inches above the finished grade. The easement will explicitly disallow structures, lighting, grading, hardscape, public access, utilities, and any and all fencing other than the afore-mentioned post and rail fences. The subject portion of the property is currently fenced to prevent trespassing and partying.

Agenda Item V(j)
July 7, 2010
Page 2

The conservation easement is being dedicated as a voluntary condition by the applicant for Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design Review Board case No. DIR-2010-771-DRB-SPP-MSP. The applicants have agreed to leave a gap in the existing fence and dedicate this portion of their property to the MRCA in exchange for Design Review Board approval. The applicants are responsible for providing the legal description of the easement and a preliminary title report. The applicants have affirmatively stated that they will also assume responsibility for fuel modification associated with the existing residence and the proposed additional structure in order to avoid the use of herbicides by the MRCA. The applicants have also agreed to remove encroachments on MRCA land.