



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: May 3, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 32-acre conservation easement in Shadow Hills from Tract No. 53884, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 32-acre conservation easement in Shadow Hills from Tract No. 53884, Los Angeles.

Background: Tract No. 53884 in Shadow Hills was approved by the City of Los Angeles in December 2004. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy had appealed the City Planning Commission's decision and settled for an approximately 17-acre conservation easement on the 68-acre property because of a lack of political support. Fourteen large estate compounds were approved. The quality of one of two habitat linkages between the Big Tujunga Wash and the Verdugo Mountains would have been reduced to a dysfunctional level.

Earlier this year a new lead partner in the development approached staff about expanding the conservation easement area to approximately 32 acres. With the proposed configuration the wildlife corridor should remain functional once slopes are revegetated. This change is a real benefit to the local mountain systems and in particular the habitat block in the Shadow Hills area and the whole of the Verdugo Mountains. The attached graphics show the both the old and new easement configurations. The grantor has agreed to all native vegetation within the easement.

There are no costs associated with the transaction or maintenance.