



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: May 3, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Excess Funds for the acquisition and improvement of lower Browns Canyon property, south of the 118 freeway (APNs 2706-001-026 and 029), Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Excess Funds for the acquisition and improvement of lower Browns Canyon property, south of the 118 freeway (APNs 2706-001-026 and 029), Los Angeles.

Background: The portion of Browns Canyon Creek located immediately south of the 118 Freeway contains exceptional ecological and recreational resources. Staff recently applied to the Consolidated Grants Program for a project entitled "Browns Canyon Wash Stormwater Treatment/Infiltration and Restoration Project" under the Proposition 40 Integrated Watershed Management Program. The proposal is to acquire the two subject parcels and restore almost three acres of riparian habitat on the four-acre ownership. A maximum amount of cash matching funds are necessary for a high enough scoring grant. The original submission included a match of \$415,000. The grant barely survived the first round. A final submission is due June 8, 2006.

Staff has not negotiated a deal yet with the owner of both parcels. However it is critical to solidify the source and amount of matching funds for the grant resubmittal. The proposed action would authorize entering into an agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use 5th Supervisorial District Proposition A Excess Funds to provide the bulk of those matching funds. The other source would be riparian in lieu mitigation funds that are restricted to the Santa Susana Mountains. The proposed action would authorize entering into an agreement to use up to \$1,000,000 of excess funds for a combination of acquisition and restoration activities.

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However, it is simpler if all the Proposition A money is used for acquisition. Community Development by Design has completed a detailed concept plan for the project.