

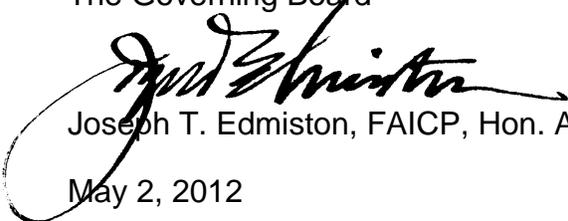


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 2, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution (a) authorizing a request to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to add APNs 3210-003-006, 3210-004-012, 3210-010-010, 3210-010-011, 3210-011-015, 3210-011-016, 3210-011-022, 3210-012-024, 3210-012-025, 3210-012-026, 3210-013-030, 3210-013-031, 3210-013-032, 3210-013-034, 3210-013-035, 3210-013-036, 3210-013-044, 3210-013-045, totaling 1158 acres, to Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202; (b) requesting augmentation of said Project Agreement to increase grant amount for property acquisition, and (c) authorizing fee simple or conservation easement acquisition of the subject parcels, Agua Dulce Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution (a) authorizing a request to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to add APNs 3210-003-006, 3210-004-012, 3210-010-010, 3210-010-011, 3210-011-015, 3210-011-016, 3210-011-022, 3210-012-024, 3210-012-025, 3210-012-026, 3210-013-030, 3210-013-031, 3210-013-032, 3210-013-034, 3210-013-035, 3210-013-036, 3210-013-044, 3210-013-045, totaling 1158 acres, to Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202; (b) requesting augmentation of said Project Agreement to increase grant amount for property acquisition, and (c) authorizing fee simple or conservation easement acquisition of the subject parcels, Agua Dulce Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Calmat/Vulcan properties are a 1,158 acre holding of 18 lots, located on both sides of Agua Dulce Road south of State Route 14. Agua Dulce Creek is one of the premier wash habitats of the Santa Clara River tributaries. The ownership is also fundamental to the Angeles Linkage Conceptual Area Protection Plan between the two lobes of the Angeles National Forest.

The Riverside Lands Conservancy (RLC) is the lead agency on the acquisition. They are working on a package to acquire the parcels. The principal proposed funding is from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Other funding is from the City of Santa Clarita, in lieu fee mitigation, and Los Angeles County Proposition A.

APNs 3210-013-035 and 3210-013-036 would likely be excluded from the purchase, as Calmat/Vulcan may want to retain these parcels for their own purposes. These parcels were included in this action if they are added to an acquisition package.

It is probable that the approximately \$600,000 in Project Agreement 58A1-09-2202 will be used this summer in the acquisition of 1100 adjacent acres. However, it is prudent to have all the County approvals in place to use the subject funding on the next phase of a major parkland acquisition effort in the Soledad Canyon and Agua Dulce Canyon watersheds. In addition, the 5th Supervisorial District may elect to augment this grant. The proposed action sets in motion a lengthy approval process by County departments to examine each APN for conflicts with County purposes. The sooner this process starts the better.