



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: June 7, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 1.18-acre open space/conservation easement (APN 4448-014-049), 20110 Observation Drive, Topanga Canyon watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 1.18-acre open space/conservation easement (APN 4448-014-049) located at 20110 Observation Drive in the Topanga Canyon watershed.

Background: California Coastal Commission staff has approved the exchange of previously protected lots at Rambla Vista Drive for the subject lots in Topanga Canyon (see correspondence attached). The subject lots in Topanga Canyon (APN 4448-014-049) at 20110 Observation Drive are located adjacent to the State Parks land, and support oak woodlands, including a portion of a stream. These lots are part of an area that has been identified as desirable to members of the Kerry Lane Preservation Project for acquisition and preservation. This is part of an area, Topanga Canyon-Kerry Lane, added to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Land Acquisition Workprogram at its August 30, 2004 meeting and is expected to be added to the MRCA Workprogram as part of a separate action at this June 7, 2006 meeting. The MRCA has taken actions to authorize acceptance of other open space/conservation easements in the immediate vicinity. Essentially the proposed action would allow the location of protected land in an area adjacent to core habitat and with high habitat value as opposed to an inferior area in the Rambla Pacifica area.