



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(b): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over APN 2552-002-900 in the Big Tujunga Wash to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over all or part of APN 2552-002-900 to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority.

Background: In April 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a new Mitigation Rule and set of guidelines for the operation of In-Lieu Fee mitigation Programs. The Los Angeles County Aquatic Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (Program), in which the MRCA works with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, is working to fulfill the requirements of this new Rule. One of these requirements is that all lands used for mitigation purposes must be placed under a conservation easement held by a third-party.

MRCA owned, 10-acre, APN 2552-002-900 in the Big Tujunga Wash currently has an ongoing riparian habitat mitigation project. The project has been approved by the Corps, but the conservation easement requirement has yet to be fulfilled.

Additionally, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued File No. 08-001 associated with the subject mitigation project also requires a third-party conservation easement.

This Big Tujunga Wash site is within the boundary of the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District, which is one of the constituent bodies of the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) joint powers authority.

There have been discussions with DMCA staff, and the action will be heard at their next meeting, possibly in December 2012.

The proposed conservation easement could be over all or a part of the parcel. Not having to do a legal description for a portion of the property reduces costs.