



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: November 5, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a 300-acre conservation easement over portions of APNs 4455-012-004, 4455-014-037, 4455-014-038, 4455-015-005, 4455-043-003, and 4455-043-007, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 300-acre conservation easement in the Stokes Canyon watershed.

Background: The subject property shares an almost a one-half-mile-long boundary with the lesser-known portion of King Gillette Ranch that is located north and east of Mulholland Highway. It contains a section of the main, and most moist, channel of Stokes Creek, hundreds of oak trees, and hundreds of acres of undisturbed chaparral that is part of the greater Malibu Creek watershed.

The owner has offered to donate a conservation easement to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) over 300 contiguous acres that encompass four legal parcels and portions of two others. Public ownership and other land protection is greatly fragmented in Stokes Canyon. The proposed conservation easement would essentially double the amount of protected land in Stokes Canyon north of Mulholland Highway. Some of the easement is also in the Coastal Zone. The owner needs to complete the transaction in calendar year 2014.

Conservation easements have no legal or maintenance liability. The details regarding allowed and restricted uses in the easement will be finalized through staff negotiations.