



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 4, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of open space Lots 270 and 271 from Tract No. 49621-01 and any associated maintenance funding, Santa Clarita.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of open space Lots 270 and 271 from Tract No. 49621-01 and any associated maintenance funding, Santa Clarita.

Background: The subject lots (approximately 30 acres total) are located in a rapidly developing area in the northeast corner of the City of Santa Clarita. Habitat fragmentation is rampant in this area. The multi-agency Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) to connect the two portions of the Angeles National Forest across State Route 14 includes a key branch connector immediately north of the subject tract. Habitat protection on the subject property, particularly in continuity with the adjacent, substantial sized BLM property, will add to the viability of this intermountain range wildlife movement corridor. The site contains a blend of inland sage scrub and chaparral vegetation elements. It is hoped that this new nucleus of public parkland land will foster dedications and donations from surrounding ownerships.

As shown on the attached map, the subject open space lots are substantially set back from the building pads. Many of the house are already built. There should be no need for any fuel modification caused by the tract itself or by any other existing development on surrounding properties. However, future development could change that condition. Staff is still analyzing the current and potential future maintenance needs on the subject open space lots. That analysis will continue as will negotiations with the owner to determine an appropriate funding source and amount.