



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: November 29, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a one-quarter-acre parcel (APN 2172-031-016) located at 4185 Marcos Drive in Woodland Hills as a donation, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a one-quarter-acre parcel (APN 2172-031-016) located at 4185 Marcos Drive in Woodland Hills as a donation, Los Angeles.

Background: The subject property is located in near proximity to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and State Parks property in Woodland Hills (see attached map). It also falls within the Inner Corridor of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. It contains at least three large healthy oak trees and connects directly to Mulholland Drive via paper Marcos Drive. The owner wants to donate the property to create a neighborhood open space park that features this unique woodland environment. Ideally the MRCA could acquire many more parcels between Mulholland Drive and the subject parcel as wildlife and recreational corridor. Most of these additional parcels are far enough from structures to preclude the need for brushing.

The subject property abuts the paved terminus of Marcos Drive. A dirt path of Marcos Drive heads south, uphill to Mulholland Drive. A short series of well-constructed wood steps connects the dirt path to the subject property. The property has a low chain link fence around it with a simple pedestrian gate at the top of the stairs. The fence is low enough for deer to jump. The parcel makes an excellent pocket park. The site is essentially a small oak woodland with a few cutback native shrubs and bare ground. Staff's recommendation to accept this parcel is based on this completely brushed condition of the parcel. In addition the shade of the trees should preclude much regrowth. A fire could not be started on the property during this unusually dry fall. The entire parcel is flat and perfectly fenced along its perimeter and extremely easy to maintain and check. There are no steep slopes or instability issues. The parcel makes an excellent addition to the general benefit contribution of the MRCA to Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2.