



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 12, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the acquisition of fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road, and the acceptance of private funds for said acquisitions, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the acquisition of fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road, and the acceptance of private funds for said acquisitions, Malibu.

Background: At its July 9, 2007 meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road. In addition Item No. XII on this agenda authorizes the MRCA to enter into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Excess funds for said acquisitions. The proposed action, though technically not essential, provides a unified acquisition authorization to use numerous funding sources to acquire interests in the above parcels.

The Coastal Slope Trail is a part of both the Los Angeles County and City of Malibu General Plans. The proposed trail extends from Topanga State Park (Will Rogers) to just beyond the Ventura County line. Much of the proposed trail alignment remains under private ownership. As a result, the route through many key sections is fluid pending both public funding availability and the success of public agencies in securing trail easement exactions in the permitting process. A major objective of the trail is to provide a means to connect the series of existing coastal canyon parks.

APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, and 4467-003-021 provide a connection between Ramirez Canyon Park/adjacent National Park Service property to the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park and the existing County-owned DeButts Terrace trail. These five parcels total 33.6 acres. However, the full fee ownership of the 33.6 acres is neither necessary for a quality trail or financially feasible for public agencies. Some combination of fee and easement acquisition, complemented by existing trail dedications from approved Coastal Development Permits, should provide a good trail.

APNs 4460-015-001, 4460-014-006 and 008 provide a connection from the eastern end of the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park to where the Coastal Slope Trail crosses Latigo Canyon Road. In this location there is scant flexibility of where the trail alignment can be placed. Essentially it must follow the old landslide ridden roadbed of the old Malibu Road (precursor to Pacific Coast Highway). These three parcels total 6.3 acres. However, the full fee ownership of the 6.3 acres is neither necessary for a quality trail or financially feasible for public agencies. Some combination of fee and easement acquisition should provide a good trail.