

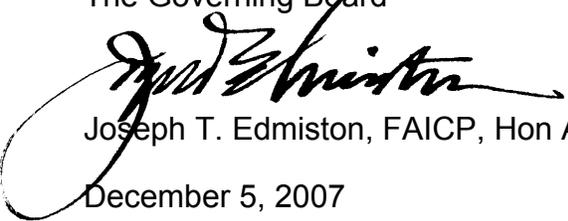


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: December 5, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APN 2826-022-024 in Lyons Canyon, Santa Susana Mountains, unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$322,000 with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APNs 2826-022-024 and 028 in Lyons Canyon.

Background: The subject, not contiguous parcels (20 and 0.33 acres) are located in the Lyons Canyon watershed just west of Interstate 5 and partially in the Lyons Canyon Significant Ecological Area. The Los Angeles County Planning Commission has approved a large subdivision (Tentative Tract Map No. 53653) shown on the attached figures that is located immediately south of both subject parcels. It is expected that the Board of Supervisors will approve the project in the next several months. There is a strong chance that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) will be offered the large open space dedication and maintenance endowment from that tract. The larger of the subject acquisition parcels (APN 2826-022-024) contains a variety of high quality vegetation types and perfectly complements this potential open space dedication. It will be part of a contiguous habitat extension northward from Towsley Canyon Park.

The owners of APNs 2826-022-024 and 028 continue to pursue road access from TT Map No. 53653. Such access would degrade the subject open space dedication and put development into terrain and habitat not conducive to any level of development. The same is true for the parcel that abuts the western boundary of APN 2826-022-024. Staff has appraised both ownerships. The owners of APNs 2826-022-024 and 028 have agreed to a sales price. Fifth District County Supervisor Michael Antonovich has agreed to wholly fund the acquisition using Proposition A Excess Funds.

The exact utility of the smaller parcel closer to Interstate 5 and the Old Road needs additional analysis but at a minimum is better undeveloped than developed and could provide a valuable public access way.

Staff hopes to come to agreement with the owners of the adjoining parcel soon.

The two subject parcels would be owned and managed by the MRCA. The large tract next door would not force any brush clearance on the subject 20-acre parcel. The 0.33-acre parcel would entail some brushing from an existing structure at its northwest corner.