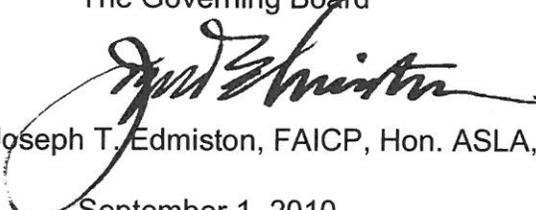**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**
Ramirez Canyon Park
5810 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: September 1, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area G) funds to acquire APN 2292-010-032, comprised of 27.05 acres in Encino, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2 (Area G) funds to acquire APN 2292-010-032, comprised of approximately 27.05 acres in Encino.

Background: The subject parcel is located in the core of Assessment Acquisition Area G, adjacent to the western border of the 1,100-acre Department of Water and Power-owned property surrounding the Encino Reservoir. (See attached maps.) The subject parcel is approximately 0.15 miles north of MRCA-owned open space, and is accessible from the western terminus of Empanada Place. This street terminus could potentially become the trail head of a future trail that would lead to the Encino Reservoir.

This property is the largest remaining undeveloped privately-owned parcel in Area G. A deed restriction currently prevents development of the southernmost 26 acres, but allows for a single house on the northern 1.05 acres. Nearly the entire property is covered with high-quality chaparral. The MRCA Chief Ranger described the brush clearance obligation as manageable.

The District No. 2 Citizens Oversight Committee approved the acquisition in August of 2005. The subject parcel forms part of the northeastern extension of the 20,000-acre Big Wild core habitat area. Permanent protection would benefit the Los Angeles River watershed.

Price and terms will be discussed in closed session.