

State of California—The Resources Agency

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
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## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 28, 2008

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire tax defaulted properties in the northeast Los Angeles hilltop areas.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire tax defaulted properties in the northeast Los Angeles hilltop areas in the amount of \$99,583.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application for grant funding for the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties in northeast Los Angeles. The proposed acquisition areas are in Glassell Park, Ascot Hills, Paradise Hill, Mount Olympus, and Mount Washington. The mechanism for these acquisitions will be Chapter 8 Agreements between MRCA and the County of Los Angeles, Treasurer and Tax Collector office.

The attached maps provided by the MRCA show specific sub-sections of the above hilltop areas that contain valuable habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational resources. All of the identified areas are within the upper Los Angeles River watershed. Each map is a subset of the available habitat in each hilltop based around a parcel(s) in at least one pending MRCA Chapter 8 Agreement. The potential acquisition subset boundaries follow parcel boundaries and are designed to minimize, or avoid all, annual brushing costs. The requested funding would only be used for the acquisition of parcels within each subset. The MRCA has provided a total of the number of parcels and total acres in each subset.

All of the subject areas support native wildlife populations including coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels, raptors and numerous resident and migrant birds. Likewise, they all provide passive recreational opportunities in and of themselves or in concert with other existing public lands owned by the MRCA or the City of Los Angeles. All of the relevant City Council offices support the acquisition of these open space areas. The decision of which parcels to apply to the funding depends on several factors, including whether the taxes

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are redeemed on some parcels, the final cost per parcel, and the availability of matching funding sources. The MRCA typically solicits funds from surrounding homeowners to maximize the number of parcels acquired.