

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 27, 2010

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment of SMM-0809 for a scope change to include the acquisition of non-tax defaulted parcels in the Northeast Los Angeles Hilltop Areas including the perimeter of Elyria Canyon Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending authorizing amendment of SMM-0809 for a scope change to include the acquisition of non-tax defaulted parcels in the Northeast Los Angeles Hilltop Areas including the perimeter area of Elyria Canyon Park.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204(c), 33204.2, and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: On January 28 , 2008 the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requested and received a grant of Proposition 50 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$99,583. The original scope of the grant was for acquisition of tax-defaulted parcels within the Northeast Los Angeles Hilltop areas that contained valuable habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational resources. None of the grant funds have been expended to date because the budget freeze was in place when the mrca was required to pay for a set of tax defaulted parcels in a couple of Chapter 8 Agreements with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector. The agreements were nullified and the base cost of those parcels is now unaffordable.

The MRCA has requested an amendment to expand the scope of this grant, SMM-0809, to include the acquisition of other qualifying non-tax defaulted parcels and to include parcels near and adjacent to the perimeter of MRCA's Elyria Canyon Park in Mount Washington. This change is being requested to allow the MRCA to take advantage of timely opportunities to acquire non-tax defaulted parcels in the important urban wild land areas. The attached map shows the parcels near and adjacent to MRCA's Elyria Canyon Park that currently contain regionally significant stands of mature California black walnut trees. The potential acquisition of these parcels would achieve the goals of the original scope of SMM-0809 and would take advantage of this opportunity to acquire for conservation valuable habitat within the Northeast Los Angeles Hilltop area.