

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 25, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing the transfer of APNs 3059-004-900, 3059-005-900, 3079-004-900, 3091-018-900, 3091-018-901, 3236-006-901, 3236-007-903, and 3318-002-900 located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the transfer of APNs 3059-004-900, 3059-005-900, 3079-004-900, 3091-018-900, 3091-018-901, 3236-006-901, 3236-007-903, and 3318-002-900 located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority at no cost.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code and Sections 33211(c) and 33205 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: In September 2001 the Conservancy adopted Resolution 01-159 which both exercised its rights to over twenty tax defaulted parcels totaling over 900 acres spread over Los Angeles County and also authorized a Proposition 12 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire the subject properties in part. Also in September 2001, the Conservancy adopted Resolution 01-160 which authorized the transfer of all currently exercised rights to acquire Los Angeles County tax defaulted parcels through Chapter 8 sales to the MRCA. Part of the purpose of this second resolution was to give the MRCA the rights to take title to Conservancy reserved properties located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone.

To pave the way for the MRCA to take title to these north county properties, the MRCA Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 01-112 (attached) in September 2001. The resolution authorized acceptance of the subject grant from the Conservancy, the acquisition of most of the subject parcels addressed in Conservancy Resolution 01-159, and immediate acceptance of any of said parcels if they were first acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The MRCA funded the acquisition of all the subject parcels, however because the Chapter 8 Agreement was in the name of the Conservancy, the County would only record the title of all the subject properties under the Conservancy. As it still stands today, the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector will only issue a Chapter 8 Agreement to the entity that formally

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pulled the subject parcels from a public auction as the Conservancy had done. The end result was that the Treasure and Tax Collector facilitated recordation of eight properties located north of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone in the name of the Conservancy. The MRCA has managed those properties for the Conservancy for the last ten years. The attached aerial photographs show the location of subject eight parcels that total 459.29 acres. The attached table shows the acreage, former and new Assessor's parcel numbers, and the general location name for each parcel.

At its April 2011 meeting, the MRCA Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 11-50 to formally request the transfer of the subject eight parcels to the MRCA as was the original intent of the Conservancy per Resolution 01-160. The correction of this clerical error is long overdue. Correcting the error of eight parcels located north of its State jurisdictional boundary being recorded under the Conservancy's name is in the Conservancy's interest. Because the MRCA funded the acquisition of the subject parcels the transfer should be at no cost to the MRCA.

The eight parcels are located north of State Route 14 that forms most of the northern boundary of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. The parcels range from the Edwards Air Force base area to Lake Los Angeles to Fairmont Butte. The largest cluster of land is two parcels totaling 158.76 acres that include Fairmont Butte. The MRCA owns six other parcels within a three mile radius of this Conservancy holding. In the addition the MRCA is going to begin a management contract with the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) on a soon to be acquired DMCA 480-acre property that abuts the Conservancy's 158.76 holding. That contract will provide annual operations money to the MRCA to maintain a limited ranger presence in that area.

The remainder of the parcels are unremarkable and contain desert and desert transition habitat with varying degrees of disturbance levels.