

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 27, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of the Laurel Canyon – Mulholland properties project to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of the Laurel Canyon – Mulholland properties project to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram, City of Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33208 and 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: The subject six lots located at the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains play a vital role in both the Topanga State Park to Griffith Park habitat linkage and the viewshed of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway. In addition the property has great potential for public access with a trail south of Mulholland Drive from the Laurel Canyon Boulevard MTA bus stop to Laurel Canyon Community Park.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has slowly been acquiring portions of the subject six lots from the same owner since late 2007. An attached exhibit shows that the MRCA has since acquired one of the six parcels in fee title and conservation easement over three additional parcels. Currently 25 percent of the 5.5 acres is permanently protected.

The Third Supervisorial District has agreed to contribute Proposition A Specified Excess Funds to the MRCA to acquire additional conservation easements that in turn will also extend the MRCA's option period. For the MRCA to enter into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use Proposition A Specified Excess Funds, the subject properties must be on the Conservancy's Workprogram. The proposed action would add the subject six lots to the Workprogram.