

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 21, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing for the acquisition of APN 4456-037-008 totaling approximately 14 acres on Piuma Road the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds, Cold Creek watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to use Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds to acquire APN 4456-037-008 totaling approximately 14 acres on Piuma Road in the Cold Creek watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The subject approximately 14-acre property is located in the portion of the Malibu Creek State Park core habitat on the east side of Malibu Canyon Road. It abuts Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property to the south. It is part of a regionally significant viewshed for southbound traffic on Malibu Canyon Road. The County designates the property as part of Malibu-Cold Creek Significant Watershed area and Piuma Road as a scenic roadway. A map of the property is attached.

The MRCA staff has been working with the subject landowner for over a year. They have reached a bargain sale agreement with the owner who would like to close expeditiously. For the MRCA to use Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds the Conservancy must first adopt an action approving of that use. The MRCA holds and expends the funds.

At its May 2, 2012 meeting the MRCA Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing acquisition of the property using the subject funds contingent on Conservancy approval.

Whether or not at the proposed bargain sale price, the subject property is an exemplary portion of the Santa Monica Mountains portion of the Coastal Zone to permanently protect with Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds.