

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 3, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 10(a): Consideration of resolution approving the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire a six-acre parcel APN 4448-018-018, 1809 Tuna Canyon Road, unincorporated Topanga Canyon area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution approving the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's use of up to \$30,000 of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire a six-acre parcel APN 4448-018-018, 1809 Tuna Canyon Road, unincorporated Topanga Canyon area.

Background: The subject 6.28-acre property is bordered on the south by Dix Canyon Creek, a blue-line stream, and bordered on the north by the MRCA's 20.66-acre Rocky Ledge property, acquired in January, 2011. The Conservancy previously approved a comment letter to the County of Los Angeles regarding proposed residential development of the subject property on December 5, 2011. That letter cited potential significant impacts due to the unique Miocene-era sandstone formations that exist on site, and the possible presence of Santa Susana Tarweed (*Deinandra minthornii*).

The property owner has recently indicated a willingness to sell. A group of local community members known as The Rocky Ledge Preservation Team have teamed up with the County's Third Supervisorial District and the MRCA to meet the seller's asking price. The proposed funding package includes up to \$30,000 of the MRCA's Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF). Per the Coastal Commission agreement, the Conservancy must pre-approve all MRCA CHIMF expenditures. This group of local community members have been pushing for the MRCA to acquire this property for more than a year. The acquisition of the subject property by the MRCA is strongly supported by the local community.

If the acquisition is completed, the MRCA would be the fee simple property owner and the management entity.