

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: December 3, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of an access easement over portions of APNs 3210-005-914, 916 and 3210-008-901, 902 in the Soledad Canyon area to Southern California Edison, in exchange for funding and land interests. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Cynthia Calemme. Under consideration: price and terms. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 54956.8 of the Government Code.)**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of an access easement over portions of 3210-005-914, 916; 3210-008-901, 902 to Southern California Edison (SCE) in exchange for funding, land improvements, or land interests.

Background: Southern California Edison (SCE) has a high voltage power line corridor that cuts east-west through the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority's (SCWRCA) 1,100-acre Rio Dulce ownership located immediately east of Agua Dulce Canyon Road. SCE has adequate access to its power poles in the area via Agua Dulce Canyon Road. SCE has inquired to staff about obtaining an access easement over existing dirt roads through SCWRCA property to reach the MTA rail corridor right-of-way along the Santa Clara River (Soledad Canyon) for the purposes of alternative access and worker safety.

The attached figure shows the new north-south access easement desired by SCE over four SCWRCA-owned parcels. Small portions of Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority-owned land (MRCA) also underlie this desired access easement. The easements would just allow for the use and maintenance of the existing dirt roads.

One benefit of an SCE ownership is free road maintenance. SCE could also install Forest Service grade gates at key locations to minimize future damage to public resources.

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The price and terms of the potential sale of an access easement to SCE can be discussed in closed session. The MRCA Governing Board is expected to take up such an item relative to its parcels in early 2016. No loss of public access would come from the proposed sale of access easements.