

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 XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-901 in the Agua Dulce area to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-901 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA).

Background: In April 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a new Mitigation Rule and set of guidelines for the operation of In-Lieu Fee mitigation Programs. The Los Angeles County Aquatic Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (Program), in which the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) works with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, is working to fulfill the requirements of this new Rule. One of these requirements is that all portions of properties used for mitigation purposes must be placed under a conservation easement held by a third-party.

SCWRCA-owned (25-acres) APN 3210-002-901 in the Agua Dulce Creek has a recently graded riparian habitat mitigation project conducted by the MRCA as authorized by a SCWRCA resolution. To satisfy the Corps requirements, the MRCA must obtain a conservation easement over the actually credited mitigation area from SCWRCA.

Because a portion of the project is also on MRCA land, the MRCA must grant a conservation easement over the restoration area to SCWRCA too. The attached figure shows the recommended conservation easement area to be granted to the MRCA at no cost. Staff is aware that if an access easement is granted to SCE for access through the restoration area, that it must not conflict with a conservation easement held by the MRCA.

At its December 2, 2015 meeting, the MRCA Governing Board is expected to consider an item to grant SCWRCA a conservation easement at no cost over the riparian restoration area on its adjoining upstream parcel.