

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 XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-902 in the Agua Dulce area from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over a portion of APN 3210-002-902 from 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 lands used for mitigation purposes must be placed under a conservation easement held by a third-party.

MRCA-owned (1.7-acre) APN 3210-002-902 in Agua Dulce Creek contains the upstream portion of the MRCA's riparian mitigation project on adjoining Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority (SCWRCA) property. As part of the MRCA's mitigation approval from the Corps, the MRCA must grant a conservation easement to a third party.

The proposed action would authorize SCWRCA to accept at no cost a conservation easement from the MRCA over the portion of APN 3210-002-902 where riparian restoration work is approved. The attached figure shows the approximate boundary of said proposed conservation easement area. The MRCA Governing Board is expected to consider an item granting such conservation easement at its December 2, 2015 meeting.