

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 26, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution approving the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to partially fund one or more parcels of the donation of APNs 4461-005-009 and 4461-006-019 in Solstice Canyon, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution approving the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to partially fund one or more parcels of the donation of APNs 4461-005-009 and 4461-006-019 in Solstice Canyon, unincorporated Malibu area.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has negotiated with the property owners to acquire the subject 60 acres (APNs 4461-005-009 and 4461-006-019) for \$50,000, a bargain sale price well below the appraised value. Acquisition of this property would represent a significant increase in the protected lands within Solstice Canyon.

The subject property is bordered to the north, west and east by private property and to the south by Solstice Canyon Park, National Recreation Area. Most of the subject property is designated as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in the Los Angeles County General Plan and the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program. With the exception of Barrymore Drive that bisects the property in a northwest-southeast direction, the subject property is undeveloped and does not contain any fuel modification zones from adjacent properties. A portion of a Significant Ridgeline (as per the Santa Monica Coastal Plan Certified) crosses the northeast corner of the property.

On June 7, 2017, the MRCA Governing Board adopted Resolution No. 17-96 authorizing the use of up to \$50,000 of the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF) to partially fund the acquisition of the subject parcels. The MRCA holds and expends these mitigation funds which can only be spent within the Coastal Zone boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains. Because each CHIMF expenditure by the MRCA must be approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), this proposed action would retroactively provide the Conservancy's approval of this CHIMF expenditure. The acquisition of this 60-acre property must close by October 31, 2017.