

# DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board

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

**DATE:** March 10, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire potential mitigation lands east of Edwards Air Force Base, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire potential mitigation lands east of Edwards Air Force Base, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been conducting a land assessment study for Edwards Air Force Base through the Department of Defense (DoD) in San Bernardino County. This assessment focuses mostly on flight corridors connected to the base. In particular, TNC was tasked with identifying special status species, key habitats, and wildlife migration corridors within the proposed assessment area. The base is also interested in protecting a buffer zone on its eastern boundary up to the Santa Bernardino County line. TNC is looking for a partner to help implement this buffer in Los Angeles County. Because of this pre-existing TNC cooperation model, the DMCA is hoping to replicate and provide similar services to the DoD around Edwards Air Force Base.

Staff is meeting with TNC about this issue on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The proposed authorization would give staff the green light to work a deal with TNC to hasten the protection of the buffer lands in an area currently without a lead acquisition entity. Because the DMCA meets infrequently, and the proposed agreement does not appear to have any controversial aspects, staff felt it was important to move forward at this juncture.