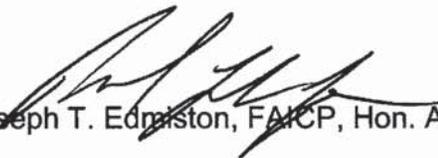


DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 7, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to conduct pre-acquisition work in the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to conduct pre-acquisition work in the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Background: In early 2008 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy granted the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority a \$50,000 grant (Proposition 12) to conduct pre-acquisition work in the upper Santa Clara River watershed south of State Route 14. The grant includes a voluminous but parcel-specific map of areas qualifying for this pre-acquisition work. At its March 10, 2008 meeting, the Governing Board authorized entering into a contract with the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) in the amount of \$19,980 to conduct a portion of this work. That contract was never entered into because of the fall 2008 State freeze on grant expenditures. The RLC's primary real estate specialist anticipated to do the work no longer works for RLC.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) staff has extensive and ongoing experience in the subject area. In order not to lose the Conservancy's \$50,000 grant, the DMCA must show some movement to expend the funds and accomplish this important work. A contract with the MRCA on a time and materials basis is the most expeditious and cost effective route to achieve this objective. The DMCA staff will give the MRCA staff direction on small sets of parcels to pursue and will pre-approve the ordering of any appraisals and title reports. The cost of MRCA hourly staff labor includes cost allocation and vehicle allocation amount rolled into one number.