

DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 26, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant of a conservation easement over APNs 2581-012-900, 903, 905; 2581-013-901, 902 in Lopez Canyon from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant of a conservation easement over APNs 2581-012-900, 903, 905; 2581-013-901, 902 in Lopez Canyon from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: The subject parcels were acquired by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in 2008. These properties contain a 1,800-foot stretch of the Lopez Canyon Creek, with ephemeral flow through the northern San Fernando section of the San Gabriel Mountains area, into the Los Angeles River. The property is in need of habitat restoration activities, and was identified as an important site to focus mitigation efforts. The property will benefit from a habitat mitigation project, which will clear concrete debris and exotic plant species from the stream banks. A series of native plants will be installed shortly thereafter.

In April 2008, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new set of rules for all mitigation programs, such as the Los Angeles County Aquatic Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (Program), administered by the MRCA. This rule requires that mitigation sites be held under a third party conservation easement to ensure permanent site protection.

This action would authorize the DMCA to accept a conservation easement over portions of the subject properties. The properties are within the jurisdictional boundary of the DMCA. There are no statutory requirements that require the DMCA to conduct any monitoring or reporting on the easement. Exact easement delineation details will be determined at a later date, and will be drawn in the most efficient manner to simplify the legal description.