DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 23, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easements over APNs 2274-025-904 and 2274-026-900 from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Sherman Oaks, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easements over all or portions of APNs 2274-025-904 and 2274-026-900 from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.

Background: These properties contain an 850-foot stretch of the Oak Forest Creek drainage of the Santa Monica Mountains. The property is in need of habitat restoration activities. The MRCA is working on a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for this mitigation.

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 by held under a third party conservation easement to ensure permanent site protection.

This action would authorize the DMCA to accept conservation easements 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. See attached map.