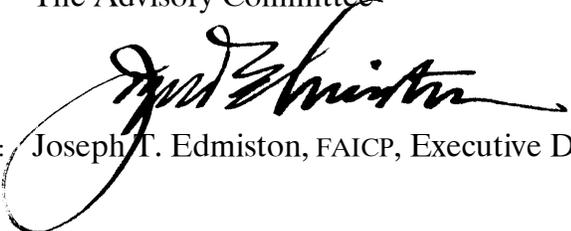


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 18, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 10: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 2.66 acres in Alamos Canyon (portions of APNs 500-0-291-115 and 579-0-050-175), Simi Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$250,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of approximately 2.66 acres in Alamos Canyon (portions of APNs 500-0-291-115 and 579-0-050-175), Simi Valley.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: Without question biologist agree that Alamos Canyon contains the potential to be a regionally significant habitat linkage between the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. The former Union 76 ownership and subsequent development proposals on both the north and south sides of the 118 freeway have long put a damper on planning efforts for a functional corridor from the north side of the 118 freeway to the Arroyo Simi. The recent purchase of almost all of the subject property by Waste Management (to expand the Simi Valley landfill) has opened the doors to obtaining the necessary movement corridor to sustain wildlife in the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains.

To complete this habitat linkage to City of Simi Valley-owned property on the south side of Los Angeles Avenue, protection must be secured on Waste Management property and on one smaller ownership (subject) between Los Angeles Avenue and the Union Pacific railroad tracks that parallel the freeway. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached grant application for Proposition 50 funding in the sum of \$250,000.00 to acquire 2.66 acres of this private ownership. The eastern portion of the property is proposed for a recreational vehicle storage facility.

The attached maps show the location of the property and its relationship to other ownerships. A cooperative seller wants to divide the property soon to allow a development application to proceed on the remainder portion. The acquisition includes the entire subject length of the Alamos Canyon stream corridor. It also connects to undercrossings beneath the UP railroad tracks and Los Angeles Avenue. The proposed acquisition is regionally significant.

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The acquisition would be funded by combination of Conservancy Proposition 50 funding and MRCA in lieu mitigation funds.