

DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 15, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over an approximately 66.91-acre parcel (APN 3244-031-079) in Haskell Canyon, City of Santa Clarita.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a conservation easement over an approximately 66.91-acre parcel (APN 3244-031-079) in Haskell Canyon, City of Santa Clarita.

Background: The subject 66.91-acre parcel (APN 3244-031-079) is adjacent to the Haskell Canyon open space property owned by the City of Santa Clarita. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) was approached by the property owner, who intends to dedicate the subject parcel in fee to the MRCA as part of the requirements of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to develop the existing tract south of the subject parcel, which is held in fee by the same owner. As part of the requirements, the CDFW prefers that a conservation easement is also dedicated over the fee simple dedication to ensure protection of the open space. Thus, the property owner would like to dedicate the conservation easement to the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA).

The MRCA, the DMCA, and the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority all have relatively simple processes to accept conservation easements. Offering reciprocal conservation easement acceptances to each other eases the overall process of land protection and satisfies agency needs for third party land protection instruments. The DMCA would not be obligated to enforce the easement and would assume no liability.

The subject parcel borders City-owned Haskell Canyon open space along the parcel's entire eastern boundary. Otherwise, the parcel does not touch any other development other than the existing tract. A blueline stream courses through the subject parcel into the Haskell Canyon open space.