Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District
Administrative Offices. 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info

July 29, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCYS PROJECT LIST PURSUANT TO SECTION (3), SUBSECTION (d) OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT FOR THE AGUA DULCE SR14 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ACQUISITION PROJECT (FIFTH DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate a not-to-exceed amount of $280,000 Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy who will assign the right to apply to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to acquire land for a wildlife habitat in the community of Agua Dulce.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.

2. Amend the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's project list, most recently amended on February 11, 2014, to add five parcels of land known as the Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Property.

3. Allocate a not-to-exceed amount of $280,000 Specified Excess Fund, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa

Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the proposed Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Acquisition Project.

4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in an amount not-to-exceed $280,000 for the proposed Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Acquisition Project, after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns the right to apply to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will add five parcels of land, known as the Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Property, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) project list and allocate a not-to-exceed amount of $280,000 Specified Excess Fund, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the proposed Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of the acquisition of up to five parcels of land, known as the Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Property, which consists of approximately 74 acres of land and located in the Fifth Supervisorial District community of Agua Dulce (Attachment I), for the preservation of habitat. The estimated total acquisition cost is $717,000. The recommended Specified Excess Funds not-to-exceed $280,000 will be supplemented with $175,000 in State of California Prop 12 funds, $205,000 in Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority funds, and $57,000 of Parks In-Lieu Fee funds. SMMC, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for wildlife land acquisition projects under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the funds to MRCA.

It is also recommended, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant after SMMC assigns the right to apply for the funds to MRCA, and to administer the grant for grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by acquiring additional open space and wildlife habitat in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant not to exceed $280,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. SMMC and MRCA each meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition requires that funds provided to SMMC be expended "solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt," provided that those projects are identified in SMMC's annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature, and as may be amended from time to time, after noticed public hearings held in November of 2003 and August of 2004.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that the Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, the Board has previously adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed SMMC projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed acquisition Project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and has been reviewed in accordance with SMMC's revised Procedural Guide, adopted by your Board on June 17, 1997. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has found that the proposed Project would not involve nor affect any existing or potential landfill sites or accesses thereto (Attachment II). After reviewing the proposed Project relative to any planned or existing County roads or highways, DPW had the following comments:

- Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-002-006, 3212-004-010, 3212-004-011, and 3212-004-014 are either fronting or impacting Agua Dulce Canyon Road, a secondary highway on the Los Angeles County Highway Plan, and require 80 feet total of right-of-way dedication (40 feet of right-of-way from the centerline) plus additional slope easement along the property frontage on Agua Dulce Canyon Road per approved County Surveyor's Map (CSB) No. B-5457-3 and -4 alignment. The approved CSB-5457-3 and -4 alignment is not consistent with the location of the existing paved Agua Dulce Canyon Road; therefore, the existing right-of-way dedication and slope easement along the existing paved Agua Dulce Canyon Road fronting or impacting Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-002-006, 3212-004-010, 3212-004-011, and 3212-004-014 shall remain until the ultimate Agua Dulce Canyon Road is constructed per the approved CSB 5457-3 and -4 alignment.

- Assessor Parcel No. 3212-004-013 does not impact County highways or local streets.

The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) researched the proposed parcels for acquisition, consulted with County Counsel, and noted no inconsistencies or lack of conformity between the parcels and their status relative to the applicable Countywide planning documents (Attachment III.)

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The proposed Project will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 13 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to SMMC's Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997 and used since then for the administration of similar grant projects. Prior to execution, the Grant Project Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of these recommendations will authorize the Director to award a grant to MRCA for the acquisition of the Agua Dulce SR14 Wildlife Corridor Property, which is up to approximately 74 acres and located in the Fifth Supervisorial District community of Agua Dulce. The Project will have no impact on any other RPOSD funded projects.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

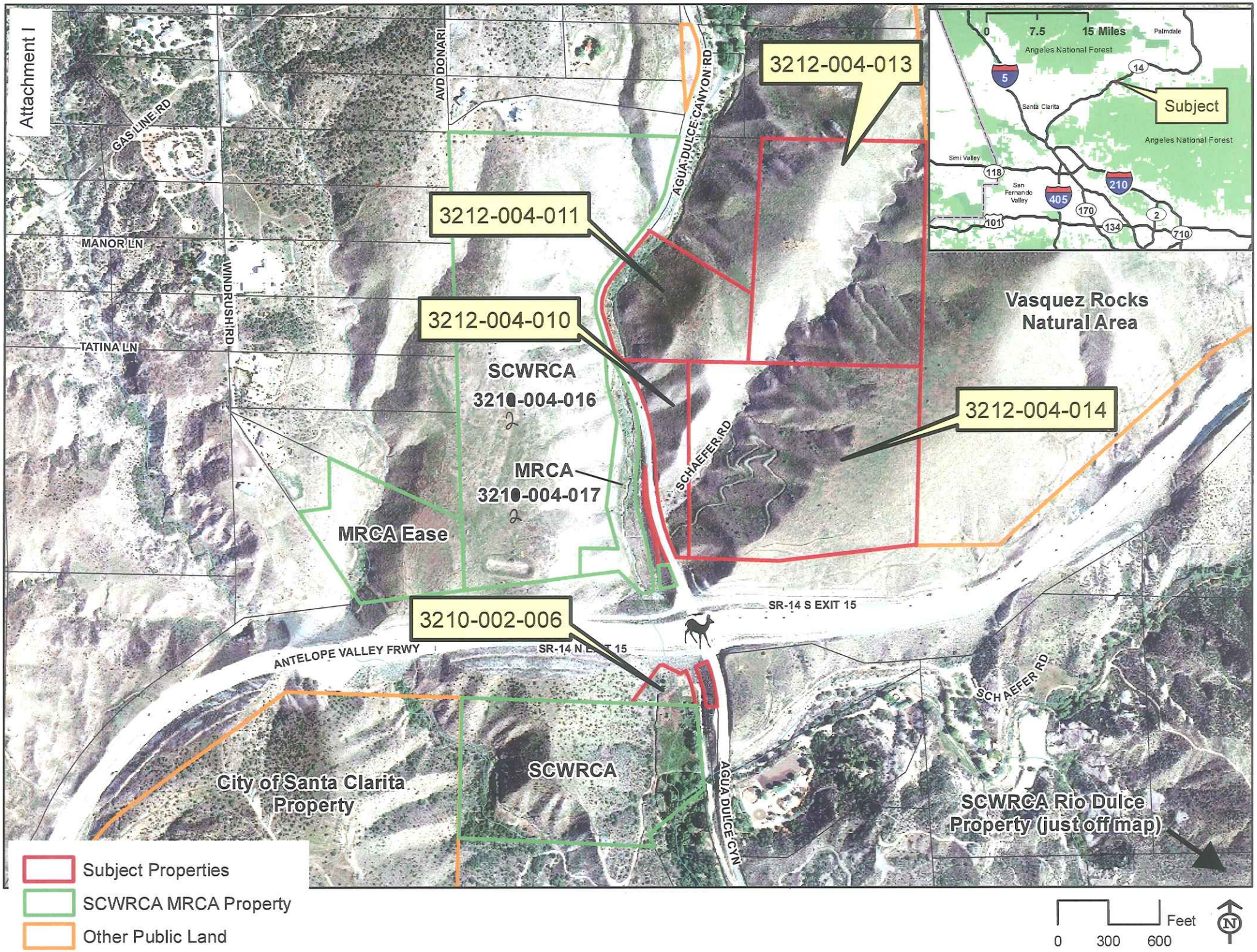
Respectfully submitted,

RUSS GUINEY
Director

RG:JB:WO:tb

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors


Attachment I
3212-004-013
3212-004-011
3212-004-010
3212-004-014
3210-002-006
SCWRCA
3210-004-016
MRCA
3210-004-017
MRCA Ease
Vasquez Rocks
Natural Area
City of Santa Clarita
Property
SCWRCA
SCWRCA Rio Dulce
Property (just off map)
GAS LINE RD
AVD DONARI
AGUA DULCE CANYON RD
MANOR LN
WINDRUSH RD
TATINA LN
SCHAEFER RD
SR-14 S EXIT 15
SR-14 N EXIT 15
ANTELOPE VALLEY FRWY
AGUA DULCE CYN
0
7.5
15 Miles
Palmdale
Angeles National Forest
Santa Clarita
Subject
Simi Valley
San
Fernando
Valley
5
14
118
405
210
170
101
134
2
710
Subject Properties
SCWRCA MRCA Property
Other Public Land
Feet
0
300
600
N

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

GAIL FARBER, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
http://dpw.lacounty.gov

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

April 23, 2014

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: LD-4

TO: Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
Department of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Anthony E. Nyivih
Land Development Division
Department of Public Works

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST FOR A NEW ACQUISITION PROJECTS IN THE AGUA DULCE AREA

As requested, we reviewed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's list of proposed acquisition projects in the Agua Dulce area as it relates to construction of any highway depicted on the County of Los Angeles Highway Plan and the impacts to the Solid Waste Management System in the County of Los Angeles. As informed, only the following five parcels, 3210-002-006, 3212-004-010, 3212-004-011, 3212-004-013, and 3212-004-014 are being considered for purchase in this acquisition using County Proposition A funds. The following are our comments:

1. Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-002-006, 3212-004-010, 3212-004-011, and 3212-004-014 are either fronting or impacting Agua Dulce Canyon Road, a secondary highway on the Los Angeles County Highway Plan, and require 80 feet total of right-of-way dedication (40 feet of right of way from the centerline) plus additional slope easement along the property frontage on Agua Dulce Canyon Road per approved County Surveyor's Map (CSB) No. B-5457-3 and -4 alignment. The approved CSB-5457-3 and -4 alignment is not consistent with the location of the existing paved Agua Dulce Canyon Road; therefore, the existing right-of-way dedication and slope easement along the existing paved Agua Dulce Canyon Road fronting or impacting Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-002-006, 3212-004-010, 3212-004-011, and 3212-004-014 shall remain until the ultimate Agua Dulce Canyon Road is constructed per the approved CSB 5457-3 and -4 alignment.

2. Assessor Parcel No. 3212-004-013 does not impact County highways or local streets.

3. The proposed acquisitions would not involve nor affect any existing or potential landfill sites or access thereto.

4. While Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-004-016 and 3212-004-017 will not be considered in this acquisition, using County Proposition A funds, but as informed, they are being purchased by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation Conservation Authority and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, respectively, using other funding sources. These two parcels also front Agua Dulce Canyon Road; therefore, comment No. 1 above is also applicable to Assessor Parcel Nos. 3210-004-016 and 3212-004-017.

If you have any questions on highway and road impacts, please contact Steve Burger of Public Works' Land Development Division at (626) 458-4943 or sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov. For Solid Waste Management System questions, please contact Carlos Ruiz of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division at (626) 458-3501 or cruiz@dpw.lacounty.gov.

HW HW:tb
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cc: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich (Norm Hickling)

bc: Enviromental Programs (Ruiz)

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

March 10, 2014

TO: Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator
Regional Park and Open Space District

FROM: Richard J. Bruckner
Director

REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF EIGHT PARCELS (APN 3210-002-005, -006; 3212-004-010, -011, -013, -014, -016, AND -017) IN THE AGUA DULCE CANYON AREA OF UNINCORPORATED LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR DETERMINATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND/OR AREA PLANS

The Department of Regional Planning (Department) has reviewed your request for a determination of consistency with the General Plan and/or Area Plans for eight parcels in the Agua Dulce Canyon area of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is proposing to acquire these parcels and include the acquisition as an amendment to its Initial Work Program that will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

All eight parcels are located within the boundary of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The land use designation for parcels 3212-004-010, -011, -013, -014, -016, and -017 is "RL2 – Rural Land 2" which allows one dwelling unit per two acres. The land use designation for parcels 3210-002-005 and -006 is "RL10 – "Rural Land 10" which allows one dwelling unit per ten acres. The zoning for all eight parcels is A-1-2 "Light Agriculture" with a two-acre minimum required area.

The acquisition of these parcels for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Initial Work Program is consistent with the goals and policies of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The Department has no objection to the proposed action.

County Counsel has been consulted regarding this information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Herwick of my staff at (213) 974-6470 or mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov.

RJB:SA:MH:lm

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