

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)  
January 25, 2016**

**Held at the**  
Garvey Center  
9108 Garvey Avenue  
Rosemead, CA 91770

And via conference call:  
Orange County Public Works Department  
2301 N. Glassell Street, Orange, CA 92865  
And  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311-Conference Room 1306  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair  
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair  
Mr. Denis Bertone  
Ms. Margaret Clark  
Ms. Judy Nelson  
Mr. Troy Edgar  
Mr. Roberto Uranga  
Mr. John Donnelly

Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)  
Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)  
Mr. Armond Ghazarian (for Ms. Gail Farber)  
Ms. Eraina Ortega (Ms. Matosantos)  
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Luis Marquez  
Mr. Randy Moore  
Mr. Jon Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)  
Ms. Lisa Mangat  
Mr. Dan Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)  
Mr. Shane Silsby

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General  
Dena Tarighi, Acting Board Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)**

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager  
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Gary Stickel spoke on behalf of the Gabrielano Band of Mission Indians in opposition to the proposed museum site at the San Gabriel River Discovery Center because there is sacred land in the Whittier Narrows and the proposed museum site would desecrate that sacred land; the location and description of the area was given along with historical tribal information. He noted that they are not opposing the museum itself but oppose the location and suggested alternative locations.

Henry Pedregon spoke on behalf of the Gabrielano Band of Mission Indians in opposition to the proposed museum site at the San Gabriel River Discovery Center noting that the land is sacred and should not be desecrated. He gave a historical background summary of the area and tribal information. He also noted that they are not opposed to the Discovery Center concept but are concerned about the proposed site location. He informed the Board that they are willing to work with the Discovery Center Authority and asked that they respect the sacred land.

Jim Odling submitted a letter dated December 6, 2015, and signed by 122 people that points out that the San Gabriel River Discovery Center project will make a net increase to contribute to the global warming greenhouse gases because of the increase in traffic. The letter was addressed to Supervisor Hilda Solis.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no corrections noted.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Minutes approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstention = 0.**

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**6. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**A. LEGISLATIVE**

The Executive Officer gave an update on several California State Assembly and Senate bills that were approved and signed by Governor Brown and took effect on January 1, 2016 which included AB 530; Rendon: Lower LA River Working Group, AB 1251; Gomez: Greenway Development and Sustainment, SB 355; Lara: Amendment of PR Code relating to the RMC Board composition, SB 208; Lara: Integrated Regional Water Management

Projects, and Cap & Trade Expenditure Plan. An overview of each bill was given in addition to actions that have been taken since the bills approval specifically SB355 and AB530. He also gave an overview and update on HR 3820, Judy Chu, San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act. It was noted that the Federal Government budget was approved that included several elements related to open space.

**B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET**

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the Capital Outlay and Support Budget noting that there has not been any significant changes since the last Board meeting and does not include grant funding for Prop. 1. It was noted that there are still an unencumbered balance of funds for Prop. 50 and 84 at approximately \$4 million. He mentioned that the Conservancy is still waiting further action on the funds that will be shared with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$100 million. He also gave an overview of the report on advance funds, support and operations, and contracts. It was also noted that the Conservancy is under budget with expenditures at approximately 42 percent.

**C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY**

The Executive Officer reported that there are 204 total projects in which 34 of those projects are still active “certified” and 166 are completed.

**D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES**

The Executive Officer gave an update on several active projects which included the De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project, Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail, Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek, and El Dorado Nature Center South Lake Restoration Project. In regards to the WCA, he pointed out that the WCA has moved into social media by creating a Facebook page and created a new website, and gave an update on the Emerald Necklace and Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 8. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR THE WILLOWBROOK WALKING PATH COMPTON CREEK PROJECT (RMC 14003).**

There was no report given and no discussion on the item.

- 9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (RMC09105).**

There was no report given and no discussion on the item.

**Mr. Edgar motioned to approve the resolutions for Items 8 and 9; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – ayes = 10; nays = 0; 0 abstentions.**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND OPERATING GUIDELINES RELATED TO RMC'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING (IRWMP) AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS (RMC 10017).**

Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager, gave an overview of the IRWMP and its' member regions and representatives. She explained that the action would allow the RMC to continue to sit as a representative on the committee and participate in the efforts of the IRWMP. There was discussion regarding the RMC's initial \$50,000 contribution and it was noted that the RMC has not been requested to provide any additional funds as of yet so there would be no fiscal impact with the approval of the item. The Executive Officer pointed out that a copy of the MOU was included in the staff report, and that he sits on the Leadership Committee, is currently the Vice Chair of the Lower Los Angeles and Lower San Gabriel Committee and Chair of the Disadvantaged Communities Committee.

**Mr. Arrighi motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Nelson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO FUND PRE-ACQUISITION AND DUE DILIGENCE EXPENSES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE FOOTHILLS ABOVE AZUSA, ASSESSOR PARCEL NO. 8684-024-036 (RMC15111).**

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the project and explained that the WCA proposes to complete pre-acquisition activities, including due diligence review, and the acquisition of approximately 40 acres of foothill open space. A map of the area was submitted and a description of the area was given. He pointed out that the proposed acquisition would preserve one of the last remaining undeveloped private property along the foothill's urban-wildlife interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, which includes the protection and preservation of existing natural habitat, native floral and faunal biodiversity, and that the acquisition of the parcel would fulfill the WCA's goals. A background summary of the property was given which included San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy's (SGMRC) focus on the acquisition and watershed restoration of the subject property, grant proposal to the RMC in which no funding was provided, their purchase of the property with a mortgage note held by the former owner, and that the majority of the funding originally slated to pay off the mortgage note is no longer available for this intended use, resulting in the organizations inability to make regular payments toward the mortgage note creating an urgency and an immediate risk of foreclosure for missing payments. The Executive Officer explained that a cooperative partnership through the RMC and WCA has the opportunity to secure the parcel into public ownership and prevent foreclosure and possible development, and that acquisition by the WCA can be negotiated for a purchase price not less than the outstanding remainder on the note. He also explained that the proposed RMC grant in the amount of \$53,225, if approved, will provide the initial funding necessary to conduct negotiations and due diligence reviews towards the sale and conveyance of the property and to negotiate a restoration and conservation stewardship agreement with SGMRC. There was discussion regarding stewardship, appraisal of the property, ongoing expenses for property tax, future potential property usage, possible future funding through Prop. 84 bond funds, and landowner rights. Margaret Clark questioned if she should abstain

because of her membership on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Community Collaboration Committee and Mr. Fujimoto informed her that there was no reason to abstain because she does not have a direct financial interest in the transaction.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVIEW OF FORTY FOUR GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM (2015).**

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the grant guidelines and call for projects process. He pointed out that the RMC received forty-four grant applications for a grant request totaling just over \$49 million but the RMC's direct allocation is for \$30 million. He explained that there will be three different teams to evaluate the projects; one to focus on mountains and foothills, one to focus on rivers and tributaries, and one to focus on the urban core areas. It was noted that by the deadline of January 4, 2016, three out of the forty-four of the grant applications were submitted without the required additional 3-copies and one was submitted electronically via the RMC Prop 1 email address. The three that submitted only one copy were the City of Compton, City of Bellflower, and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The entity that submitted via email was the California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network. He explained that the grant guidelines for submitting proposal clearly instructed applicants to submit one original and three copies of the application and attachments as well as a digital copy. He also explained that although they did not submit their applications within the guidelines they were submitted on or before the deadline, and staff recommends reviewing those applicants however staff would appreciate Board direction before moving forward. Mr. Cash questioned whether or not the guidelines provides for exceptions or if the submittal requirements are strict with no exceptions such as a grace period. He suggested that in the future, language be included in the guidelines that allow for exceptions or no exceptions. Chair Colonna gave direction that staff take it as an advisory position, and that it could be followed up on at a later meeting. Ms. Nelson questioned if she should recuse herself from the vote because her city submitted an application and Mr. Fujimoto informed her that she did not. Representatives from the City of Compton were in attendance.

**Mr. Arrighi motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.**

**13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There was a brief discussion regarding the additional Board members pursuant to SB 355.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2016, in the City of Bellflower.

**15. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:28 p.m.