

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)
November 23, 2015**

Held at the
City of Bellflower
City Hall, Green Room
16600 Civic Center Drive
Bellflower, CA 90706

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 1:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair	Ms. Eraina Ortega (for Ms. Matosantos)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair	
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Ms. Margaret Clark	Ms. Terry Grant (for Ms. Farber)
Mr. Troy Edgar	Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Luis Marquez	Mr. Jonathan Bishop (for Mr. Rodriquez)
Ms. Judy Nelson	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Dan Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)
Mr. Randy Moore
Ms. Lisa Mangat
Ms. Marilyn Thoms (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. John Donnelly

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary

STAFF PRESENT (CON'T.)

Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Parsell and Janice Dahl, El Dorado Audubon, gave a summary of recent Audubon activities.

Mr. Marquez arrived at approximately 1:37 p.m. and Mr. Edgar arrived at approximately 1:42 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections noted.

Ms. Chin motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 9; Nays = 0; Abstention =2.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

6. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

No report was given.

Mr. Fujimoto instructed all attendees to leave the room and the meeting went into closed session at approximately 1:47 p.m.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126(A)(1))

The performance evaluation was heard in closed session.

Chair Colonna recalled the meeting to order at approximately 2:03 p.m. and the meeting resumed open session.

It was reported that Mr. Stanley met the performance evaluation criteria and would continue to perform the duties of the Executive Officer of the RMC.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

A. LEGISLATIVE

The Executive Officer gave an overview and update on several state and federal legislative initiatives and how they relate to the RMC which included AB530 (Rendon); Lower LA River Working Group, AB 1251 (Gomez D); Greenway Development and Sustainment Act, SB 355 (Lara); Amendment Section 32605 of the Public Resources

Code, SB 208 (Lara); IRWM Projects, Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan, and H.R. 3820 (Judy Chu); San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills and Rivers Protection Act 114th Congress.

B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET

The Executive Officer reported that there are three projects pending encumbrance, one of which is Item 9 on the agenda, which leaves a balance of \$3,004,773 in bond funding. He pointed out that the balance does not include Proposition 1 Bond funding. The projects pending encumbrance include the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek Project, the Rio Hondo Trail Acquisition Project, and the Los Angeles Revitalization Corporation. He pointed out Exhibit A (Advance Funds Report), Exhibit B (Support and Operations), and Exhibit C (Contracts).

C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The Executive Officer reported that the number of projects that are currently managed by the Conservancy has expanded to 204 total projects: 166 completed, 34 projects “certified”, and 4 approved but awaiting state certification (active projects).

Mr. Uranga arrived at approximately 2:10 p.m.

D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

The Executive Officer gave an update on the Regional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning, Duck Farm Project, Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan, and Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space. There was discussion regarding the Emerald Necklace and the Los Cerritos Wetlands upcoming activities.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (RMC 15110)

The Executive Officer pointed out that members of the LA River Revitalization Corporation and Omar Brownson, Deputy Director, gave a background overview of the corporation and their efforts, and informed the Board that their goal is to develop an integrated design and technical analysis along the entire 51 mile length of the LA River and create a range of river interventions and multi-benefit capital improvement projects. A PowerPoint presentation was given as an introduction to some of the corporation’s previous work efforts in relation to the LA River, and an overview of the project’s six main tasks and deliverables which includes 1) basis of design testing, 2) data acquisition and analysis, 3) water resources research and benefits estimation, 4) initial beta tests and econometrics, 5) public engagement, and 6) project management.

The Executive Officer noted that the total estimated cost of the project including the entire 51 mile stretch of the LA River is \$3,100,000 however the portion for this project will not exceed \$500,000. He also pointed out that there are matching funds for this work including a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$1,000,000 and philanthropic gifts totaling \$570,000. It was noted that there is a gap of approximately \$1,000,000 to complete the entire planning effort.

There was further discussion regarding the future design of the river and specifically if the concrete would be removed, data gathering and sharing, mapping, RMC funding and additional funding needs, and community outreach. Mr. Edgar voiced concerns regarding funding the project with Prop. 84 funds and the RMC's involvement with the LA River Working Group. He requested a copy of the scoring criteria for this project. A member of the corporation explained that there has been and will continue to have significant community outreach with the LA River communities.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 1; abstentions = 1.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT EXTENSION FOR THE CITRUS GROVE HEIGHTS BIKE STOP PROJECT (RMC 13006)

The Executive Officer gave a brief background summary and an update on the site improvements. He noted that the grant was originally approved for \$30,000 to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) and it is not expected to increase. He also noted that the period for the grant agreement expires on December 30, 2015 and the WCA is requesting an extension for permit approvals until June 30, 2017, which is now expected to include an Army Corps of Engineers 408 permit.

Mr. Cash motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Marquez seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =12; Nays = 0; abstentions = 0.

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE RMC TO: 1) ACCEPT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON VARIOUS PUENTE HILLS HABITAT AUTHORITY PARCELS IN THE PUENTE HILLS; AND 2) ENTER INTO A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION TO ACCEPT ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING.

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the project description and background summary which included mitigation restoration work and the mitigation agreement which obligates the Habitat Authority to permanently conserve via conservation easement the restored Mitigation sites and perpetually monitor and manage the restored Mitigation Sites. As a result the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has directed that a suitable third-party accept the conservation easements, and the RMC, consistent with the provisions of the Mitigation Agreement, is a suitable third-party CE Holder. A map of the area was presented in Exhibit A, draft endowment documents in Exhibit B, and draft conservation easement monitoring checklist in Exhibit C. There was further discuss regarding management and liability.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Marquez seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =12; Nays = 0; abstentions = 0.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Bertone thanked Mr. Stanley for attending the recent San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the City of Rosemead.

14. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 3:05 p.m.

DRAFT