

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)  
September 25, 2017**

**Held at the  
Garvey Center  
9108 Rosemead 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 1:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair Frank Colonna  
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi  
Mr. Denis Bertone  
Ms. Margaret Clark  
Ms. Liz Reilly  
Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt  
Mr. Jorge Morales  
Mr. Ali Saleh

Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)  
Ms. Julie Alvis (for Secretary Laird)  
Ms. Karen Finn (for Mr. Cohen)

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. John Donnelly  
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)  
Ms. Sarah Patterson (for Assemblymember O'Donnell)  
Ms. Marilyn Thoms (for Mr. Silsby)  
Mr. Armond Ghazarian (for Ms. Farber)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Judy Nelson  
Mr. Troy Edgar  
Mr. Roberto Uranga

Ms. Nikita Koraddi (for Senator Lara)  
Mr. Jeff Vail (for Mr. Moore)  
Mr. Daniel Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)  
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)  
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General  
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary  
Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst  
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

**Mr. Chen arrived at approximately 1:32 p.m.**

**Chair Colonna recommended that Item 10 be heard prior to the other items on the agenda.**

**10. Closed Session: the Conservancy may hold a closed session at any time during the meeting pursuant to the confidentiality of attorney-client communications and privileges provided for in Government Code Section 11126(e) to discuss the following matter: Thompson v. California State Rivers & Mountains Conservancy, et al., Gov. Code, § 11126(e)(2)(a).**

**Closed Session began at 1:35 p.m.**

The Board received litigation information and advice and provided direction.

**Closed Session ended at 1:41 p.m. and open session was resumed.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brian Tinsdall explained what polystyrene is and how items made. He also explained how items made with the material has a negative impact on storm drains, and that it has been banned in numerous cities. He noted there is currently a push to have polystyrene banned statewide.

A representative of the Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians spoke in regards to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center project noting that they have always stood in opposition of the project because of the sacred land on the project site. He gave an overview of their discussions with some members of the legislature and Army Corp of Engineers regarding the matter to gain support for their objection to the project. He noted that they wish to work with the Discovery Center; not against it, in order to make an easy transition for both parties involved.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Reilly pointed out that in Item 2 her name was spelled incorrectly and that there should be "Mr." instead of "Ms." for Armond Ghazarian, and that under Item 8 roll call vote, there should be an "8" instead of a "0" for the Ayes.

**Mr. Morales moved to approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Saleh seconded the motion. One abstention; Item passed.**

**Mr. Donnelly arrived at approximately 1:50 p.m.**

**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 overview and update on several State legislative bills including SB 5 (DeLeon, K.) – California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018; AB 1558 (Garcia, C.) – Los Angeles River; River Ranger Program; AB 466 (Bocanegra, D.) – Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group; SB 693 (Mendoza, D.) – Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District; SB 714 (Newman, D.) – State Coastal Conservancy; and AB 1235 (Daly, D.) – Santa Ana River Conservancy Program. He also presented an overview and update on the National Monument recommendations noting that the recommendation to President Trump is that the area remain as is.

**B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET**

Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst, gave an overview of the Capital Outlay and Support Budget which included a report on the total capital outlay funds appropriated, encumbered and remaining from Propositions 1, 40, 50, 84 and 13, and an outline of projects that have received advanced funds as included in Exhibit A of the report. She also provided an overview of the FY 2017/18 Budget and FY 2017-18 Contract Report which was also included in the report.

A member of the public had a question regarding the Discovery Center however, Mr. Edsall advised the Chair that the Board did not have an obligation to answer questions for receive and file items, and explained that members of the public were free to speak during the public comment period.

**C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY**

There was no oral report.

**D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES**

The Executive Officer discussed the recent activity of the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530); RMC Board Meeting and Project Tour held on July 24, 2017; and approval of Proposition 1 projects. He also gave an overview of the Watershed Conservation Authority's Mt. Baldy Wilderness Park Dedication Ceremony and thanked

Board members Margaret Clark and Janet Chin for their attendance. He mentioned the upcoming Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority grand opening of the Zedler Marsh Trails which was funded by the RMC.

Ms. Clark commented on the Discovery Center project possibly being impacted by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) dam study. Mr. Stanley explained that the County of Los Angeles leases the property where the Discovery Center will be located and the County of Los Angeles would receive notification from ACE if any changes were to take place and that the Discovery Center is communicating with the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding any changes that may be made.

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **8. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR FINAL PROPOSITION 1 GRANT APPROVAL TO THE CITY OF POMONA FOR THE PHIL AND NELL SOTO PARK (RMC 17018).**

Marybeth Vergara gave a background summary regarding previous RMC funding and explained that the total amount of this grant is for \$1 million. She pointed out that the City is also seeking matching funds and is ready for construction. She noted that this is one of the last remaining Proposition 1 funded projects.

**Mr. Arrighi motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstention = 0.**

### **9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION MASTER PLAN PROJECT (RMC 17019).**

The Executive Officer explained that the RMC is involved with many master plan projects, green way planning networks, and website portal. He also explained that this project is very similar to the other RMC involved master plan projects and noted that it would be valuable asset for many of the foothill cities including Azusa and that it would also benefit the private sector as well. He noted that this master plan would offer the opportunity to establish a coordinated open space conservation program and preserve the foothills. Mr. Stanley further explained that public and private sector has been interested in purchasing property or gifting of property to the WCA, and a map of the acquisition area was presented and included in the staff report. He pointed out that the recommendation to the Board is to fund a master planning study not to exceed \$250,000 for the WCA with the use of Proposition 84 funds.

Chair Colonna mentioned the possible economic burden on the WCA regarding maintenance and management. Mr. Stanley explained that once the Authority acquires property, there should be a plan for operations, maintenance, and protection of the property, and through this planning process an effort would include an analyst of funding sources that are available to manage property that will be held by the WCA.

Ms. Reilly requested clarification of the area to be studied. Mr. Stanley explained that the map represented the areas of opportunity.

Ms. Kathy Windsor, President of the LaVerne Land Conservancy, gave a background summary of the organization and spoke in support of the project. Ms. Ann Croissant, of the Glendora Conservancy and the San Gabriel Mountain Regional Conservancy also spoke in support of the project and presented letters from both organizations.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstention = 0.**

**10. This item heard after Item 2: Roll Call.**

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Bertone thanked RMC staff for providing the tour of RMC projects in July. Chair Colonna announced that he was recently appointed to the Port of Long Beach Harbor Commission.

**12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on November 27, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the City of Bellflower.

**13. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:32 p.m.