

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

**October 15, 2018**

**Held at the  
City of Rosemead  
Garvey Community Center  
9108 Garvey Ave.  
Rosemead, CA 91770**

**And via conference call at**

**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**

**Voting Members Present**

Chair Frank Colonna  
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi  
Ms. Margaret Clark  
Mr. Denis Bertone  
Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt  
Ms. Rose Espinoza  
Mr. Jorge Morales

Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Laird)  
Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)  
Ms. Judy Nelson  
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)  
Mr. Ali Saleh

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mark Pestrella)  
Mr. Daniel Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)  
Mr. John Walsh

**Members Absent**

Ms. Karen Finn (for Mr. Cohen)  
Mr. Jeff Vail (for Mr. Moore)  
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)  
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)  
Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Silsby)  
Ms. Suely Saro (Senator R. Lara)  
Ms. Sarah Patterson (for Assemblymember P. O'Donnell)

Mr. Roberto Uranga  
Ms. Liz Reilly

**Staff Present**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General  
Dena Williams, Board Secretary  
Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst  
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager  
Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager  
Sally Gee, Project Manager

**Ms. Espinosa arrived at approximately 1:52 p.m.**

**In an effort to preserve the quorum for the closed session item, Chair Colonna moved Item 16 to be heard prior to public comments.**

**The meeting went into closed session at approximately 1:38 p.m.**

16. **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).**

David Edsall, Counsel for the RMC, provided updates and advised the Board on ongoing litigation. The Board provided direction to counsel.

**The meeting resumed to open session at approximately 1:40 p.m.**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no discrepancies noted.

**Mr. Saleh motioned to approve the 7/9/18 minutes. Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Board Voted. 9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.**

5. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no report given. Chair Colonna thanked counsel for diligently working on the lawsuit.

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

There was no report given.

## **7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **A. Legislative**

Marybeth Vergara gave an overview and update on several State legislative bills including AB 1558 (Garcia, C.) – Los Angeles River; River Ranger Program; AB 466 (Bocanegra, D.) – Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group; AB 1918 (Garcia, Eduardo D.) – Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Proposition 68 which was SB 5 (DeLeon, K.) – California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018. Ms. Vergara also stated that SB263 was not approved and would not be moving forward at this time and will keep the Board updated if it is brought back to the legislators.

### **B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget**

Mr. Stanley stated that this item contains information on the total capital outlay funds appropriated, encumbered and remaining from Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68 and 84. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the table in the report reflects balances as of October 1, 2018 and referred the Board to Exhibits A and B for a more detailed report.

### **C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary**

Mr. Stanley reported that the RMC has authorized 236 total projects, which consists of 197 completed, 35 are certified, 1 approved and pending encumbrance with the remaining balance of 4 withdrawn projects.

### **D. Project and Liaison Activities**

Mr. Stanley discussed the recent activity of the Lower Los Angeles River Implementation Advisory Group (AB 530) and RMC which held their first meeting on August 22, 2018 and the next meeting will be scheduled in November 2018.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Lower LA River Working Group was honored by the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter for its work with the recently completed Revitalization Plan and he attended to accept the recognition among 7 other honorees with several River advocates in attendance.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Los Angeles River Ranger Program Study is in Phase 2 which will include ongoing outreach, completion of the Plan and a pilot program recommendation and the focus will be gears towards how the Plan will be managed and how it will be financed.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that there was a groundbreaking for the Phil and Nell Soto Park in Pomona on September 27, 2018 with staff in attendance absent Mr. Stanley.

Mr. Stanley concluded with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project which is in process of acquiring the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and LCWA received approval from the Department of General Services on an appraisal report on the Bryant Properties and it is LCWA's desire to move into final negotiations with the land owner and hopefully come to a resolution within the first quarter of the new year. Mr. Stanley assured the board that he would keep them updated on the results of the acquisition.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

8. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH FOR THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL URBAN STORMWATER TREATMENT (LB MUST) ROJECT (RMC17009).**

There was no report given.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A FUNDING SOURCE AMEMDMNT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS ENTRY PROJECT GRANT (RMC14001).**

There was no report given.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolutions in the Consent Calendar for Items 8 & 9; Vice Chair Arrighi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10 Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

10. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING 1)PROPOSITION 68 DRAFT GUIDELINES, 2) A 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND 3) PUBLIC MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE RMC FUNDING AREA.**

Mr. Stanley stated that RMC is looking to move forward with the Proposition 68 guidelines which were posted on October 12th on the website and the comment period would be October 20th through November 20th with three to four public meetings to be held in November. Mr. Stanley also stated that upon approval of the Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines at the January RMC Board meeting, staff will issue the official Call for Projects and the grant program that will be implemented by the Conservancy will be using the \$37.5 million for the Lower Los Angeles River and \$30 million in direct allocation to the Conservancy from Proposition 68 which will be spent within a five to seven year time frame.

Ms. Araceli Hernandez from Nature for All, made a comment and stated that they were urging the board to implement all access services, such as bus services, under the Proposition 68 Guidelines that would service the communities most underserved by promoting diversity in the National Forests and Parks.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

11. **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE OPENING A CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR PROPOSITION 1, ROUND 2 FUNDING.**

Mr. Stanley stated that the Board approved Proposition 1, Chapter 6 Grant Program Guidelines on September 28, 2015 and RMC was required to update and approve guidelines from 2007 with the most significant deviation from the 2007 RMC Grant Program update was ensuring robust water components and the requirements will meet

the needs of AB 1471, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

Mr. Stanley stated that the September 26, 2016 meeting, the Governing Board approved the RMC Proposition 1 Grant Program Tier1 and Tier 2 Grant Recommendations and preliminary authorized grant distributors of up to \$20,261,564 of the \$30,000,000 allocation with a total of twenty (20) projects recommended for funding.

Mr. Stanley also stated that upon approval to open a call for projects for RMC's Proposition1, Round 2 Grant Program, staff will issue the official Call For Projects which will go from October 16, 2018 to December 16, 2018. He stated that any grant applications submitted will be reviewed and scored according to the Project Evaluation Criteria and will be brought back to the Board in either March or May of 2019 for approval with funding allocated from Chapter Six (6) of Proposition 1, in the sum of \$30,000,000.

Ms. Diana Tang thanked the Board and staff for making funds available for Proposition 1 Grant Program and looks forward to working with Staff.

**Ms. Chin motioned to approve this item. Mr. Saleh seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ALLOWING RMC TO CONTRACT WITH THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 452, STATUTES OF 2017 (ASSEMBLY BILL 1558 RIVER RANGER PROGRAM STUDY).**

Ms. Vergara stated that this item would approve a grant to the WCA for the continued implementation of Assembly Bill 1558, also known as the River Ranger Bill, and would allow the WCA to enter into a contract with the consultant who conducted Phase 1 of the work with oversight from the RMC and MRCA.

Ms. Vergara also stated that other qualified consultants and sub-consultants will be brought on for completion of Phase 2, in coordination with both Conservancies with \$250,000 funds being available for Phase 2 which include extensive community outreach, completion of the Plan and pilot program development.

**Vice Chair Arrighi motioned to approve this item. Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AND GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE WILLOWBROOK WALKING PATH COMPTON CREEK PROJECT (14003).**

Ms. Vergara stated that this item would approve an augmentation of the grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps who began working with grubbing of the site back in May of 2018 but has since been delayed due to various permits, right-of-entries and revised 100% construction documents.

Ms. Vergara stated that the LACC will continue the grading and move on to construction of a fence line, a required retaining wall which has escalated the costs in order to obtain the permits from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and landscaping.

Ms. Vergara also stated that the additional \$300,000 for the project will close the gap in funding for completion of the project which would increase the RMC contribution from the current \$300,000 to \$600,000.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DUCK FARM PHASE 1A PROJECT.**

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the staff is requesting the RMC Board to authorize a \$1.2 million grant to WCA to complete the construction of the Duck Farm Phase 1A-Step 2 Project. Mr. Gonzalez mentioned this project involves the development of a 31-acre river adjacent park that includes a pocket park and entry parking, interpretive features, 1.25- mile trail, a wildflower meadow and a river overlook.

Mr. Gonzalez also stated a Request for Bid (RFB) was published August 3, 2018, a mandatory bid walk on August 15, 2018 with 16 firms in attendance but only 1 bid was ultimately submitted and rejected. Mr. Gonzalez stated that WCA is proceeding with an alternative contractor solicitation strategy to obtain a viable bid proposal.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded that due to the complexity of this multi-jurisdictional park development the project has experienced both regulatory/entitlement hurdles and funding challenges that are being resolved with final permit and agency approvals expected to be completed by the end of November 2018 and a construction contract awarded by January 2019.

**Ms. Chin motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Massa-Lavitt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN GREENING PLAN.**

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the RMC Board previously approved matching funds for the project in the amount of \$250,000 to North East Trees (NET) back in September 2013.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the project is developing and finalizing the plan's web portal to make the Plan more accessible by the expected audience of community and agency stakeholders. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the staff recommendation is to disencumber the remaining grant funds from NET and award the funds to WCA to complete the tasks necessary for a web portal.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded that this amendment does not impact the previously approved budget of \$250,000 or deliverables but that it would extend the grant to WCA through December 2019 to support matching funds.

**Mr. Saleh motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0**

**17. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Board member comments.

**18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Mr. Stanley stated that the next meeting is January 28, 2019 in the City of Bellflower.

**19. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:31 p.m.

X

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Frank Colonna  
Governing Board Chair

X

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Dena Williams  
Board Secretary