

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

January 28, 2019

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

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 1:40 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was recited by all who were in attendance.

3. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Chair Frank Colonna	Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Laird)
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi	Ms. Margaret Clark
Ms. Judy Nelson	Ms. Karen Finn (for Mr. Cohen)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Ms. Liz Reilly
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Jonathan Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)
Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt	Mr. Ali Saleh
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)	
Mr. Jorge Morales	

Non-Voting Members Present

Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mark Pestrella)
Mr. John Walsh
Ms. Beatrice Musacchia (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. Stan Chen
Ms. Sarah Patterson (for Assemblymember P. O'Donnell)

Members Absent

Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)

Ms. Suely Saro (Senator R. Lara)
Ms. Rose Espinoza
Ms. Heather Schlosser (for Colonel Colloton)
Mr. John Bishop

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

Chair Colonna asked that everyone take a moment of silence for the passing of Denis Bertone's wife Dianna and thanked Denis for attending the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no discrepancies noted.

Mr. Saleh motioned to approve the 10/15/18 minutes. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Board Voted. 14 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report given.

7. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

There was no report given.

8. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

Mr. Arrighi nominated Frank Colonna for Chair and Dan Arrighi as Vice Chair. Denis Bertone seconded the motion and closed the nominations. Frank Colonna was voted unanimously into the Chair's seat. Mr. Arrighi was voted unanimously into the Vice Chair's seat.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Legislative

Marybeth Vergara gave an overview and update on a few State legislative bills including AB 65 (Petrie-Norris D.) – Coastal Protection: Climate Adaptation Project Prioritization; AB 45 (Allen D.) – Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 and S. 3704-115th Congress which establishes the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in California

and modifies the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California which was introduced in Senate by Senator Kamala Harris.

B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget

Salian Garcia stated that this report included information on both the RMC capital outlay and support budgets and expenditures. Ms. Garcia also stated that the first page of the report includes all of the appropriations for Propositions 40, 50, 85, 1 and also 68 and pending encumbrance, RMC18003, Gateway Greening Plan does not impact the previously approved budget but will provide the same deliverable and project scope to be completed by December 31, 2019.

Ms. Garcia stated that in Exhibit A, it outlines projects that have received advanced funds and that each project that receives advanced funds must reconcile upon expenditure and in Exhibit B, it tracks the administrative and operation expenses for the RMC.

C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

Ms. Garcia reported that the RMC has authorized 240 total projects, which consists of 198 completed, 35 are certified, 1 approved and pending encumbrance with the remaining balance of 6 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 Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2019.

Mr. Stanley stated that all committees are continuing to work on establishing a project review process and will discuss how each committee can support the development and implementation of projects, programs, policies and efforts.

Mr. Stanley stated that RMC staff is scheduling proposed project presentations by RMC grant applicants before the appropriate committees to allow Lower LA River stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed projects before they are recommended for funding to the RMC Board.

Mr. Stanley stated that the River Ranger Program (AB1558) is an ongoing study and will be wrapped up by March 2019. Mr. Stanley also stated that a total of 4 Stakeholder meetings have taken place since 2018, consisting of all 23 cities that are located along the 51-mile length of the LA River and at the next meeting which is February 27, 2019 a final River Ranger Plan will be submitted to the Assembly Committee and the Senate Committee by June 30, 2019.

Mr. Stanley stated that the View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project is underway and this was a grant from Proposition 1 awarded to the City of Signal Hill in the amount of \$2,000,000 and it will provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks, connect an urban trail system, prevent runoff pollution from contaminating the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and annually save approximately 40 acre feet of potable water.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway project is underway and it supports low-impact development stormwater management features and will create habitat for Monarch butterflies. Mr. Stanley also stated that this project was formerly WRD-GRIP project, but is now known as the ARC Project. Mr. Stanley informed the board that an invitation would be sent out towards the end of the year once the grant is closed out.

Mr. Stanley reported that the Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project is underway and is to be finished soon. Mr. Stanley informed the board that an invitation would be sent out once this project is finalized.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment project is also underway and is about 60% complete with the final design specifications and construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2019.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm project had been around for quite some time and will enter into agreement to construct the project and staff is looking forward to the groundbreaking.

REGULAR CALENDAR

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S "PLANNING FOR THE URBAN ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT" PROJECT (RMC17006).

Joe Gonzalez reported that staff is requesting a grant amendment with the Trust for Public Land to revise the scope and extend the timeline and would not need additional funds in this amendment.

Mr. Morales stated that he was excited to see this project as being a great addition and inclusive down in his area.

Mr. Saleh motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes =14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS PLANNING AND RESTORATION PROJECT (RMC17014).

Sally Gee reported that staff is requesting a grant amendment with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority to revise the timeline, budget and task list. Ms. Gee reported that with the board's approval, today's action would add an additional \$150,000 in funding for a total grant amount not to exceed \$500,000 with funds from Proposition 1.

Mr. Uranga motioned to approve this item. Mr. Morales seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONSULTANT SERVICES RETAINER FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER COMMUNITY RESTORATION &

REVITALIZATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING GREEN INCUBATOR AND CULTURAL CENTER.

This item was tabled.

- 13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO EAST YARDS COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR OPPORTUNITY AREA NO. 97 OF THE LOWER LA RIVER REVITALIZATION PLAN: SLEEPY LAGOON PLANNING ELEMENTS (RMC18004).**

Ms. Vergara stated that this item would approve a grant to the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ) in the amount of \$325,000 to conduct a plan development of Opportunity Area No. 97.

Ms. Vergara stated that the funding for this process will be allocated from the statute AB-1471 of Proposition 1 which is for project to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries pursuant to Division 22.8.

Ms. Clark motioned to approve this item. Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

- 14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE GLAAC BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOR THE TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (RMC18006).**

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the staff is requesting the RMC Board to authorize a grant in the amount of \$112,800 for the Trask scout Reservation Water System Improvement and Enhancement Project in Proposition 1 funds from funds remaining in the round one solicitation of Proposition 1 project request and will extend through July 2019.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the requested support form RMC would be used to hire an engineering consultant to determine the cam's various water system needs and provide an engineering estimate of expected costs. Mr. Gonzalez also reported that the current expectation is to install a 100,000 gallon capacity tank that will replace their current 25,000 gallon tank that will provide a safe and reliable water supply to meet water demands of Camp Trask and will also provide fire suppression storage that will greatly benefit Angeles National Forest's firefighting operations in this high-risk fire area.

Anthony Villalobos of the GLAAC Boy Scouts of America stated that he was there to just urge the board to consider who the new water system would service which would be intercity youth, public, staff so that they can get an outside experience at the reservation.

Ben Devoe, one of the youth members of the Boy Scouts of America just wanted to reiterate the importance of what having potable water at the reservation would mean to the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

- 15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING RMC'S CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR**

ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68) FINAL GUIDELINES CHAPTER 852, STATUTES OF 2017. CHAPTER 7. CALIFORNIA RIVER RECREATION, CREEK, AND WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. 80100(A)(1)(B) – LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. CHAPTER 8. STATE CONSERVANCY AND AUTHORITY FUNDING. 80110(B)(6) – TERRITORY-WIDE.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that staff is requesting the board approve RMC Grant Guideline criteria for Proposition 68 which was passed in June 2018, under chapter 7, the RMC was allocated \$37,500,000 for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries, and under chapter 8, is allocated \$30,000,000 for territory wide projects.

Mr. Gonzalez also stated that the Prop 79 Grant Program Guidelines will establish the process and criteria that the RMC will utilize to solicit applications, evaluate proposals and award grants pursuant to Proposition 68 and RMC guiding principles.

Mr. Gonzalez reported that there would be no fiscal impact with approval of the Prop 68 guidelines.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Morales seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mr. Stanley gave a brief overview of the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvement Project and reported that the WCA is requesting funding to defend the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvements project's certification of CEQA Environmental Impact Report due to a filing of a court case by Save Our Access-San Gabriel Mountains v. WCA, et al filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Mr. Stanley also reported that WCA is requesting an amount of \$79,000 which will be allocated from Proposition 84 for a total not to exceed \$869,584.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 13; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING FUNDING FOR THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT (LLARRPD) (SENATE BILL NO. 1374) AND MANAGEMENT LEVEL RECRUITMENT.

Ms. Garcia reported that RMC was requesting funds for the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District (LLARRPD) and recruitment of a full-time management-level staff person for the implementation of Senate Bill 1374, introduced by former Senator Lara (SD33).

Ms. Garcia also reported RMC staff recommends committing not less than \$120,000 per year for three consecutive years for an amount not to exceed \$360,000 and these funds will support operational and administrative expenditures, the new position fully burden rate. Ms. Garcia also stated that funding after the initial three years will be contingent on the establishment of the district as well as the economic viability of the district to self-

sustain operations. Should the LLARRPD and funding plan be operational and feasible, the RMC will return to the Board to approve continuing staff and possible nominal funding support.

Vice Chair Arrighi motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 13; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE WALNUT PARK ACQUISITION PROJECT (RMC18007).

Ms. Vergara stated that this item would approve a Proposition 1 Grant to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for the Walnut Park Acquisition in the amount of \$1,265,000.

Ms. Vergara stated that this grant awarded will be for the acquisition of a 0.5 acre vacant parcel consisting of three vacant lots for the creation of a new pocket park located in the Walnut Park community, will also go towards the additional closing costs and the surveying of the site. The funds for this grant will be allocated from Proposition 1 statute.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 14; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

The meeting went into closed session at approximately 3:10 p.m.

19. 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 3:12 p.m.

20. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

21. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Stanley stated that the next meeting is Monday, March 25, 2019 in Rosemead.

22. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 3:13 p.m.

X

Frank Colonna
Governing Board Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary