

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

May 20, 2019

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:33 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	Ms. Linda Noriega
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi	Ms. Margaret Clark
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Ms. Liz Reilly
Mr. Denis Bertone	Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt
Mr. Ali Saleh	Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Crowfoot)
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)	
Mr. Chris Leif (for Mr. Cohen)	

Non-Voting Members Present

Mr. Julian Juarez

Members Absent

Mr. Stan Chen (for Ms. Solis)
Ms. Rose Espinoza
Mr. Jorge Morales
Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)
Mr. Ed DeMesa (for Ms. Colloton)
Ms. Sarah Patterson (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell)
Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)
Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)

Staff Present

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. Approval of Minutes

There were no discrepancies noted.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the April 29, 2019, minutes. Vice Chairman Arrighi seconded the motion. Board Voted. 12 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report given.

7. APPOINTMENT TO THE RMC-AZUSA JPA GOVERNING BOARD

Board Member Reilly was appointed by acclimation.

8. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

There was no report given.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Legislative

Mark Stanley gave an overview and update on a few State legislative bills including AB 968 (Garcia. C) - Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program, which creates Naturalist programs throughout community colleges in the Los Angeles District. AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) - San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles RMC to include Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island. This bill made it out of appropriation and is headed towards the assembly floor with no opposition, than will move onto senate, SB 367 (Hueso D) - State Coastal Conservancy: Grants: Educational Projects and Programs, provides additional opportunities for education in terms of natural resources within the state of California.

Chairman Colonna asked if there were any reservations in AB 1694 about additional members on the Board? Mark Stanley replied that the bill does not include any additional Board Members, just the expansion of the territory which is about a 14% expansion of the

RMC. Board Member Clark asked if the expanded territory would have any representation? Mr. Stanley responded that Catalina Island was a Gateway City COG member. Chairman Colonna added if this was a part of Supervisor Hahn's district; Mr. Stanley confirmed it was.

B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget

Salian Garcia explained that they had expanded the appropriations for the various Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68, and 84 which are categorized in the Capitol Outlay. In the first chart of Capitol Outlay there is \$112,742,000, incumbered/expended, with a \$130,000, remaining to be incumbered with Sacramento, \$4,200,000, total pending for Board approval which will be presented later. The balance for Capital Outlay ready for spending now is \$73,500,000. In regard to planning and monitoring there is a balance of about \$6,900,000; Lower LA River specific funding includes Sub-Grant of January 2018 and appropriation of Budget Act of 2018, Lower LA River Restoration and Revitalization Project, totaling \$44,500,000. This makes a total of \$125,221,755, to spend.

C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

Salian Garcia reported that the RMC has authorized 245 total projects, which consist of 199 completed projects, 35 are certified, 3 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 8 withdrawn projects. The total number of projects excluded any potential projects that are awaiting board approval.

D. Project and Liaison Activities

Mr. Stanley stated the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group has formed an Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) as an advisory body which will provide guidance on issues intended to be presented as projects to the RMC. The goal of the IAG is to provide a public venue for discussion of proposed projects/programs related to the Lower LA River; ensure proposed projects/programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan; and maximize multi-use opportunities and community benefits by encouraging collaboration among the many project proponents and organizations in the project area.

Mr. Stanley stated that in compliance with legislation AB 1558, which extended the River Rangers Program's time period to April 2019; RMC submitted a draft for the River Ranger Program to the Legislator and will go to both the Senate Body and the Assembly. RMC will submit the final draft of report in a couple of weeks to legislator at which time RMC will schedule time for presentations for recommendations.

Mr. Stanley noted that the Friends of the Los Angeles River hosted their annual Great LA River Clean-up in which RMC and WCA staff members participated. Clean-up was conducted along the Compton Creek.

Mr. Stanley stated the Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project which RMC is funding at \$6,520 is now on the way, and will enhance the campus, provide greener infrastructure, enhance the urban habitat, and will demonstrate to the public landscaping [techniques] on how water use improves the infiltration system.

Mr. Stanley provided an update on the Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project CEQA process which starts the programmatic EIR for the 500 acres of the wetlands. The comment period for the public ended in April, and LCWA is reviewing the comments and recommendations which will be included in the EIR which Mr. Stanley will later provide a presentation as the process moves forward.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the Pacific Vision event at the Aquarium of the Pacific and commented that a media event was held on May 22, 2019, in which RMC staff members provided comments. RMC provided \$2,000,000, for the expansion project which allowed for new structures, programming and apps.

Lastly, Mr. Stanley mentioned the Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning which will enhance recreation areas around Crystal Lake and have additional plans for repairs for the leaks in the lake.

REGULAR CALENDAR

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY PRELIMINARY BUDGET FY 2019/2020.

Nicole Law reported that the proposed budget includes four expenditure components. The projected administrative expenditures total \$176,041, the difference of \$140,541, is anticipated to be funded by the WCA Billable Rate Structure Plan and overhead allocation charged against eligible grants, project, and contracted funding. The planned administrative expenditures for the Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20 will decrease by approximately 1%. Personnel expenses for FY 19/20 are budgeted at \$674,122. The Authority plans to replace the Administration Assistant position with a new Project Coordinator position. Revenue from leases, filming, permits, citations, the annual RMC JPA property management contribution of \$40,000, and 10% indirect costs applied to eligible grants, totals \$601,601, reflecting a projected increase of \$167,039. Planned operational expenditures for FY 19/20 total \$368,253, against the projected operational revenue, resulting in a difference of \$232,948, that will be utilized to partially offset administrative expenses and administrative overhead. The Authority anticipates that it will utilize approximately \$10,065,000, of its grants and special project funding in FY 19/20 Budgeted revenue for FY 19/20 from grants and special projects is expected to total \$10,064,901, with \$8,840,870, being allocated to capital activity. Nicole requested that the RMC approve the Watershed Conservation Authority preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

Board Member Bertone asked if anyone else contributes to the fund other than RMC? Mr. Stanley responded that there are other contributors such as local revenue from leases and Billboard ads. Other funding sources includes Prop A and RMC Bonds, Measure A, and Environmental Natural Resources funds. An additional question if Public Works funds the WCA in any way, was asked? Mr. Stanley replied that Public Works contributes \$25,000, a year to the Administration, per the JPA Agreement.

Ms. Uranga motioned to approve this item. Ms. Massa-Lavitt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes =12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

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

ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) DEVELOPMENT.

Through Exhibit A the DRAFT RMC Proposition 68 Technical Assistance Program (TAP), Joseph Gonzalez was able to explain the TAP program and stated the final draft would be submitted to the Board in the next month for their approval. He explained that Proposition 68, pursuant to Section 8008(b)(1), provides the opportunity to assist grantees with technical assistance during the process of applying for funding. RMC development of a Prop 68 TAP program for grantees would help ensure projects compete equally and are more competitive in the goal of meeting RMC's mission. The TAP program is being designed to provide information, tools, resources, and strategies to help applicants through all stages of grant initiation, grantmaking, and project completion by ensuring that all Cities, local agencies, and non-profits throughout the RMC region, and especially High-Need or Very-High-Need areas, are well informed regarding available RMC Proposition 68 competitive grant program opportunities, TAP as a resource, and the steps required to receive these resources; Maximize participation in RMC's Prop 68 grant program from High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas by providing proactive and flexible technical assistance throughout the grant continuum to help with applying for funding, administering grants, and completing and maintaining projects; Create and support relationships between agencies, organizations, and technical experts and mentors throughout the County; Support organizational capacity-building among RMC's Prop 68 applicants to increase their ability to administer grants; Place emphasis on delivering successfully completed projects to park and open space users. Applicants may submit a request for technical assistance which is comprised of six elements of support to include Web Design and Development, Resource Toolkits, Technical Advisors, Training and Education, Ongoing Technical Support from RMC, and Professional Services.

Mr. Gonzalez requests that the RMC Governing Board approve the development of RMC's Proposition 68 Technical Assistance Program.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS FOR THE EMERALD NECKLACE SAN GABRIEL RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT (RMC 18009).

Joseph Gonzalez reported that in Fall of 2018, upon approval of the RMC Governing Board (Resolution 2018-22), staff opened the Round Two Call of Projects between October 16, 2018 to December 16, 2018. Of the \$30,000,000 allocated to RMC under Chapter 6, section 79731(f) up to \$10,000,000 is being made available for Round Two, for projects throughout all of RMC territory. Note, projects within the Los Angeles River corridor have an RMC urban river funding source. Clair Robinson (representative of the Amigos de los Rios program) presented that they are requesting a total of \$1,117,588, with a match from Public Works, Watershed Stewards, and CA Conservation Corps in terms of permitting. The Emerald Necklace San Gabriel River Habitat Restoration Project will restore the river parkway trail; will improve water capture and water quality by replacing impervious pavement in certain areas with permeable paved trails; will remove invasive weeds and plant 600 native trees and 1,600 shrubs and project areas will subsequently be re-planted with native grasses, ground cover shrubs, and trees to enhance the urban forest canopy on the San Gabriel River between Live Oak Avenue and Peck Road.

Board Member Clark asked if the Amigos de los Rios would be utilizing volunteers for the project? Clair Robinson responded that they are utilizing a "Passport" style point system which allows the volunteer to use points earned at school. This varies from elementary school kids to college students.

Ms. Clark motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

13. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE URBAN ORCHARD PROJECT (RMC 18010).

Marybeth Vergara briefly introduced this report and invited Clair Robinson to give an overview of the report. Ms. Robinson reported that the Urban Orchard Project was in the second phase of design and construction of the wetland's component. The grant requests that RMC authorize from Proposition 1 grant in the amount of \$1,387,401.44 to the Trust for Public Land for the Urban Orchard Project. In Fall 2018 staff opened the Round Two Call of Projects between October 16, 2018, to December 16, 2018, with funds available for the Lower La River Grant Program. This grant received a score of 91.2/100. The Trust for Public Land is partnered with the City of South Gate who owns seven acres of the property. This project will create one acre of functioning wetland habitat in a heavily developed, urban area that would treat and utilize stormwater from the adjacent Bandini Channel to irrigate the park and provide the community with a new greenspace. The wetland component of this project includes the associated plant material to support stormwater filtration and cleansing, as well as a stream and backwater habitat.

Board Member Clark asked if all the plant life would be irrigated by the water supplied into the wetlands? Clair Robinson stated they would use drip irrigation throughout most of the park but cannot use the treated water on all the plants. Board Member Clark asked if there would be any extra water from the wetlands stored on site anywhere? Ms. Robinson responded that there will be an acre foot well below ground to store extra water. Furthermore, in the event there is an overflow of water stored, the excess water will be cleaned and channeled back to the Bandini River. Board Member Reilly asked what plant life will be planted in the Orchard? Ms. Robinson responded that there would be oranges, mangos, limes, etc.

Ms. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR THE CENTRAL JEFFERSON HIGH GREEN ALLEY MULTI-BENEFIT STORMWATER PROJECT (RMC 18011).

Sally Gee gave a brief introduction of this report then invited Clair Robinson to report that the Central-Jefferson High Green Alley Multi-Benefit Stormwater Project will renovate a 54,446 square-foot public alley right of way in a high density 100-acre neighborhood; this project improvements will include the installation of high albedo pavement, permeable pavers, permeable pavement, street tree planting, infiltration trenches, a dry well system, planting of native vines and trees, educational and mile marker signage, public art and traffic calming measures including planted bump-outs, crosswalk striping, lights and way

finding signage. If approved this will be the first green alley network project that RMC funds. The Central-Jefferson High Green Alley Project presents an opportunity to promote a more resilient and sustainable water infrastructure for the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and provide outdoor recreation areas and safe travel corridors for the surrounding community.

This grant award to The Trust for Public Land will be for a total amount of \$645,362 in Proposition 1 funds from RMC's Round 2 solicitation. Available Proposition 1 funds for Round 2 territory-wide totals \$10,000,000.

Chair Colona asked if the maintenance would be conducted by the City Sanitation? Clair Robinson replied that it would. Chair Colona asked if the alleys would be functional due to parking, trash collection, etc.? Ms. Robinson replied that it was a key component of the project to ensure there would be vehicular access.

Ms. Massa-Lavitt motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH FOR DEVELOPING A LOWER LA RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER AT DEFOREST PARK (RMC 18012).

Marybeth Vergara Marybeth Vergara briefly introduced this report and invited Dan Knapp and Kayla Kelly-Slatten to speak about this report. Mr. Knapp reported that DeForest Park located in North Long Beach is a unique community area that has the potential to bring together local organizations, community members, and visiting individuals along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR), although it is surrounded by neighborhoods struggled with low-income, crime, and environmental issues. In order to bring about positive changes to the park, its wetlands, and the greater LLAR Region, the Conservation of Long Beach (CCLB) proposes to develop a master plan for the entire DeForest Park, as well as to design and install a satellite site at the DeForest Wetlands to better serve the needs of the LLAR while training youth as river stewards. A review by staff scored this grant at 80/100 possible points as this project fulfills a need for a more vibrant open space at DeForest Park and is creating a more functional and creative park space in a location that is located along the Los Angeles River and will increase its functionality.

In partnership with Camp Fire Angeles and City Fabrick, the CCLB will create a Master Plan for DeForest Park, which will include the newly completed wetland portion of the park, along with the activities planned for Camp Fire Angeles' new Camp Suanga site, as well as a satellite site for the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. The grant amount recommended for funding for this project is 1,132,261.00. The Conservation Corps of Long Beach will provide matching funds totaling \$84,280.00. Funding will be provided by the RMC's Proposition 1 water bond allocation.

Board Member Clark asked what the relation to the building to the wetlands (on the map)? Kailey Slats answered that the building sits within a few hundred feet of the wetlands at the very North end.

Mr. Uranga motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Massa-Lavitt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 12; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

16. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Stanley stated that the next meeting is Monday, June 23, 2019, in Rosemead.

18. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 3:06 p.m.

X

Frank Colonna
Governing Board Chair

X

Jennifer Fierro
Board Secretary