

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

June 24, 2019

**Held at the
City of Rosemead
Garvey Center
9108 Garvey Center
Rosemead, Ca 91770**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 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. Lynda Noriega
Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)	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. Jorge Morales
Mr. Chris Lief (for Ms. Bosler)	

Non-Voting Members Present

Mr. Julian Juarez
Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)

Members Absent

Vice Chair Dan Arrighi
Mr. Stan Chen (for Ms. Solis)
Ms. Rose Espinoza
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. 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

Board Member Clark noted under Item 15 that Marybeth Vergara's name was used twice in a row, Board Member Noriega noted her last name was spelled incorrectly, and Board Secretary made a note of Chris Lief's name being misspelled.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the May 20, 2019, minutes. Vice Chairman Arrighi seconded the motion. Board Voted. 12 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 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. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Legislative

Mark Stanley gave an overview and update on a few State legislative bills and stated most of these bills listed were in assembly and are now moving into senate for review by the Natural Resource and Water Committee. AB 209 (Limón D) - Parks: Environmental Education, is a reintroduction of last year's AB 2534 and will require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences. This bill will be presented to the Natural Resource and Water Committee on July 9, 2019. AB 217 (Burke) - Income taxation: credits: exclusions: federal conformity, originally authored by Senator Eduardo Garcia was greatly amended and moved over to Burke; this is no longer an environmental bill. AB 968 (Garcia, Cristina D) - Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program will create naturalist programs throughout the California Community College system. This bill has become a two-year bill and will not be heard until next year. AB 1269 (Rubio, Blanca D) - Park Property, City of El Monte: Pioneer Park, is specific to the City of El Monte to dispose of all or a portion of Pioneer Park property

acquired or developed with grant moneys. The City of El Monte will need to develop a plan for the city and provide property of equal value and will be evaluated by the Department of Parks and Recreations. AB 1694 (O'Donnell D) - San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy will expand the territory by 14% from the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island and will be heard by Natural Resources Committee and Senate on July 9, 2019. SB 404 (Chang R) - State Parks: Chino Hills State Park: Expansion will pick up three parcels its expansion and will likely become a two year bill. AB 352 (Garcia, Eduardo D) - California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Investment Plan: Transformative Climate Communities Program has become of interest to the RMC and other agencies looking into greenhouse reduction programs. A Budget Committee Letter was submitted by Senator Eduardo Garcia and Ben Allen to expand GGRF and provide \$400, 000 in funding for conservancies.

B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget

Salian outlined the various reports under the Support Budget and Expenditures and explained that Fiscal Year 2018/19 Support Expenditures Report outlines projects that have received advanced funds. Each project that receives advance funds must reconcile upon expenditure. The projects include the Bassett HS Campus Green Infrastructure Project with a total granted fund of \$652, 520, from the RMC, and an advanced request amount of \$273, 789.74. The remaining balance after the advance request totals \$273, 789.74, with a reconciliation due by June 19, 2019. The Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park project with a total granted fund of \$617, 385, from the RMC, and an advanced request amount of \$68, 583.81. The remaining balance after the advance request totals \$68, 583.81 with a reconciliation due by June 14, 2019. Salian moved onto outlining Support & Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 which displays and tracks the administrative and operation expenses for the RMC. The report includes Personnel Services and Operating Expenses/Equipment and delineates the six fund sources for operations such as the Environmental License Plate Fund, Propositions 1, 40, 50, 68, and 84. The cumulative contract report for the support budget includes contracts executed under the Executive Officer's Discretionary Approval for under \$10,000.00 and those over \$10,000.00 that have been approved by the RMC Board.

C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

Salian Garcia reported that the RMC has authorized 249 total projects, which consist of 199 completed projects, 36 are certified, 6 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 8 withdrawn projects. The total number of projects excludes any potential projects that are awaiting board approval.

D. Project and Liaison Activities

Mr. Stanley stated the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group 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 commented about the Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway for which RMC donated \$1,000,000. The project includes many interpretive and education aspects with an outdoor amphitheater, demonstration gardens for native plants, a working model of the San Gabriel River, eco-friendly garden, multi-lingual signage, and other visitor facilities focused on water education, and provides multiple benefits to economically disadvantaged communities. This project is part of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP), fully funded at \$119 million. GRIP broke ground in July 2016 and is now known as the ARC Project. The Center dedication will be held later this year and RMC will be paying for the education center and demonstration garden; Board Members will be invited for opening of centers.

Mark Stanley reported that the Phil and Nell Soto Park 1.76 acre park will provide for active and passive recreation opportunities. RMC provided a grant for the acquisition of this park and the City has recently accepted an additional grant in the amount of \$1 Million for the park construction from Proposition 1. The park design includes natural systems to treat urban stormwater runoff, infiltration and retention of stormwater to mitigate flooding and is anticipated in Summer 2019.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 FINAL BUDGET.

Nicole Law requested that the RMC Governing Board approve the Watershed Conservation Authority's Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 as adoption of the WCA budget by the RMC Governing Board is required in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Powers Agreement. Nicole stated the budget is separated into four revenue and expenditure components: Administrative, Personnel, Operations, and Grants and Special Projects with revenue totaling \$9,569,932 and expenditures total amount of \$9,691,676.

Nicole commented the WCA anticipates it will utilize \$8,984,131 of its grants and special project funding in FY 19/20, with a portion on hand being carried from the previous fiscal year. The WCA currently has over 25 grants or contracts from a variety of agencies including the RMC, County of Los Angeles, United States Forest Service, and other local city and non-profit agencies and a myriad of programs and revenue pools from which those projects are funded. Though the totality of grants and project funds granted exceed what is budgeted for in this fiscal year, WCA projects revenue and expenditures based on the aforementioned criteria on how much is expected to be received and utilized during the fiscal year. WCA historically analyzes and separates grant and projects funds into two categories: funds allocated for the administration or completion of the project by staff and those allocated to capital associated activity. Expenditures allocated to capital activity is expected to total \$8,464,154. The remaining \$519,977 is allocated to cover personnel expenses and administrative overhead as permitted by the grant and project agreements and in accordance with the WCA's Billable Rate Plan.

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

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT BUDGET AND SCOPE AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DUCKFARM PHASE IA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (RMC3609).

Joseph Gonzalez presented the Duck Farm Phase 1A Implementation Project (Duck Farm). The park's construction that begun April 2019 and scheduled for completion in summer 2020, involves the development of a 31-acre river adjacent park that includes a pocket park and entry, parking, pedestrian amenities and access improvements, interpretive features, 1.25-mile trail, riparian landscape, a wildflower meadow and a river overlook. This amendment updates the grant budgeted scope and task list. Jo explained that due to both the complexity of this multi-jurisdictional park development and the \$10+ Million cost to construct the 30-acre river park a variety of funding sources were required. The Duck Farm Phase 1 A project is funded by 6 granting organizations and includes 9 separate grant agreements of varying scale and scope. Jo explained there would be No change in the total overall project budget. Funding for this grant was encumbered from Prop 40 (PCA 30111); Prop 50 (PCA 30118) and Prop 84 (PCAs 32700, 30115, 32800). Funds have been reallocated between existing and updated budgeted tasks and balanced with other funding sources and/or through the utilization of contingency resulting in no detrimental effect to the overall project deliverable.

Mr. Gonzalez requests that the RMC Board approve a grant budget and scope amendment to the Watershed Conservation Authority for the Duck Farm Phase IA Implementation Project (RMC 3609).

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

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LYNWOOD TO TRANSFER FUNDING FROM THE LYNWOOD PARK INFILTRATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO THE FERNWOOD AVE.

This item was tabled.

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR PLANNING FOR THE EAST FORK SUSTAINABILITY RIVER ACCESS PROJECT AT THE OAKS AREAS.

Joseph Gonzalez briefly outlined the criteria for the East Fork Sustainability River Access Project at the Oaks Area and explained that it is a planning project for a multi-benefit public river access improvement project located in a special status riparian area along the East Fork San Gabriel River. Planning for the East Fork Sustainable River Access Project at the Oaks Area would initiate Phase 2 of the East Fork Project in the Oaks Areas, only, and would complete the design, engineering, and permitting for the Oaks Areas improvements.

Mr. Gonzalez then invited Debbie Enos who then introduced this report and explained that the San Gabriel River Confluence with the Cattle Canyon Improvements Project (East Fork Project) was proposed to better manage the recreation use and balance the needs for resource protection along a 2.5-mile reach of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. Debbie explained that to implement the project, WCA partnered with the U.S. Forest Service through cooperative agreements to develop a project that promotes sustainable

recreation. The future desired condition to be advanced by the project includes environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing urban and culturally diverse population, particularly for day use. Phase I of the East Fork Project included a feasibility study and environmental analysis resulting in the East Fork Project Plan. Subsequent phases will design and implement the East Fork Project Plan incrementally. The East Fork Project will result in physical site improvements, restoration activities, development and implementation of an interpretive outreach program, and a study on the effectiveness of the overall project activities. RMC 09105 is a previous grant from RMC that supported the Phase 1 study and concluded with the certification of the EIR document by the WCA Board on October 25th, 2018. Phase 2 project planning activities would complete the design, engineering, and permitting for the Oaks Areas, only. This grant awards to the Watershed Conservation Authority a total amount of \$128,700 in Proposition 1 funds from RMC round two solicitation of Proposition 1 project request.

Debbie requested that the RMC Board approve a Proposition 1 grant in the amount of \$128,700 to the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) for the East Fork Sustainability River Access Project at the Oaks Areas.

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

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Stanley stated that the next meeting is Monday, July 22, 2019, in Bell Flower.

15. 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