

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

November 18, 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 1:32 p.m.

2. FLAG SALUTE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Vice Chair Dan Arrighi	Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)
Ms. Lynda Noriega	Ms. Liz Reilly
Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt	Ms. Rose Espinoza
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Josh Nelson (for Secretary Crowfoot)
Mr. Ali Saleh	Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	Mr. Chris Lief (for Ms. Bosler)

Non-Voting Members Present

Members Absent

Chair Frank Colonna	Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)
Ms. Margaret Clark	Mr. Julian Juarez
Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)	Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Mr. Ed DeMesa (for Ms. Colloton)	Mr. Tylor Bonanno-Curley (for Senator Gonzalez)
Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Silsby)	
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)	
Ms. Marisol Barajas (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell)	

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.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve the July 22, 2019, minutes. Mr. Urnaga seconded the motion. Board voted 9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 3 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. Mr. Stanley started by explaining that AB 209 was signed and passed by the governor. This bill will provide priority funding to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor and educational programs. This bill is state-wide and will be tracked because it can potentially provide support for the River Ranger Program.

Mr. Stanley briefly explained that AB 556 was vetoed and while it will not be tracked it was intended to promote at-risk transportation programs. He explained that there are various Rails to Trails legislation, both State and locally who are moving forward with trying to provide transportation access to parks.

Mr. Stanley explain that AB 1111 had a new legislative number as the bill failed and did not move out of Appropriations Committee. Similarly, AB 1694 also did not make it out of committee. Assemblyman O'Donnell intends to reintroduce the bill in January in the second half of the two-year session. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) will continue to work with Assemblyman O'Donnell in case he requires additional support or information moving forward.

Mr. Stanley reviewed SB 367 and explained this is an educational program opportunity that is being managed by the Coastal Conservancy. Due to the Joint Powers Authority of Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) providing stewardship programs, RMC has great interest as it can allow for additional funding from the Coastal Conservation to continue programs.

Mr. Stanley moved onto AB 352 which he explained that along with AB 1298 and SB 45 these three bills propose water bonds; although they did not make it out of session and instead have turned into two-year bills. There is anticipation for at least one of these bills to move forward in order to provide the next Water/Park Bond for the November 2020 ballot.

B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget

Salian Garcia outlined the various reports under the Support Budget and Expenditures and explained that the report reflected balances from the Capital Outlay, Planning and Monitors, and LLAR specific Funding as of October 31, 2019. Ms. Garcia stated that the total appropriations is at \$246,682,428, and the total encumbered is at \$127,400,524. The total approved pending encumbrance is at \$775,365, and includes projects like RMC18003 with the Watershed Conservation Authority and RMC18011 with Trust for Public Land, and the total projects pending board approval totals \$2,837,380, so this left a bill of total available

for encumbrance and expenditure at \$155, 669, 162, which largely consist of Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 balances.

Ms. Garcia explained the various exhibits for the report; Exhibit A reflects the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for Support Expenditure Reports which include expenditures processed through contracted fiscal services throughout October 31, 2019. With about 33% of the fiscal year completed only 19% has been spent. She explained there are large line items that have not been expended which are usually expended by the inner department agencies such as Human Resources or Contract Fiscal Services and is billed on a quarterly basis. Ms. Garcia moved onto Exhibit B which outlines the projects that receive advanced funds, although no projects have received advanced funds. Lastly, Ms. Salian reviewed Exhibit C which outlines a list of contracts received by RMC. She explained 11 contracts were received with three of those contracts having expired.

Board Member Reilly asked, what happens when a contract expires? Ms. Garcia responded that it depended on the on the reason for contract, she stated sometimes the contracts expires with no option to extend at which point it gets bid out.

C. Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary

Salian Garcia reported these are projects identified by funding source, Proposition 1, 40, 50, and 84 and include grants since June 2019. As of this date RMC has authorized 250 total projects, which consist of 200 completed projects, 37 are certified, 2 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 11 withdrawn projects. The total number of projects excludes any potential projects that are awaiting board approval.

D. Project and Liaison Activities

Mark Stanley gave updates about the various projects and activities for RMC. Mr. Stanley started with a review of the 2019 Urban River Revitalization Summit, a two-day event which hosted four sessions throughout the first day with over 200 attendants present. The second day included various tours of the river to provide over 100 attendants with up to five (5) activities that interact with the river. These activities included: Fishing in the LA River, the LA River Bus Tour, Kayaking the LA River, Equestrian Tour of Compton Creek, and the Long Beach Harbor Cruise. From this experience RMC will be working to update their Common Grounds documents which the board will be updated about within the next year. Mr. Stanley was grateful to all the Board Members who participated in the summit.

The next two activities followed the summit, which included the SELA Festival which had over 600 attendants. Being a sponsor for this event, RMC hosted a booth to provide activities and information. This event offered a unique opportunity for the community to interact in the LA River channel bed in a way they wouldn't normally experience. RMC anticipates this event to be hosted yearly. Similarly, the Movie Night at the LA River was hosted on the river channel bed and featured the movie screening of the 'Secret Life of Pets 2'. The event drew in about 300 attendees, and RMC hosted a booth with activities and information.

Mr. Stanley informed the board that the River Ranger Program continues to move forward as staff continues to go out into the cities to speak with the community; in particular the cities confluence areas. This will lead into setting up pilot programs such as 'Reach Zones' that will be about 3-4 miles long and will demonstrate how to provide programming, public safety, and clean-up projects along the river. This is being done in conjunction with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and RMC is seeking to work with Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) to help manage the program.

RCM participated in the 51 miles LA River Legislative Tour. This two-day event split the Upper and Lower part of the LA River and this gave the State Legislative Staff an opportunity to see the efforts taking place along the river.

The Nature for All event was a celebration of our National Forests with various agencies, including RMC who participated. This event is anticipated to continue every year.

Mr. Stanley reviewed the list of projects received through Urban Planning activities and this includes five (5) regions across the metropolitan Los Angeles area with both RMC and WCA participating in the Upper and Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles River. This includes helping to evaluate and participate in Committees as projects move forward for regional enhancement. Board Member Bertone asked who approves these projects? Mr. Stanley responded these projects are approved through a committee made up of different water interests (both State/Local) in the region.

Mr. Stanley informed the board to anticipate a Los Angeles River Master Plan draft that should be ready for committee review in January 2020, at which time it will be open for public commentary.

The Recycled Water Campus; originally known as the 'Grit' project; was completed and recently opened for operation.

The Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure project is now underway and in construction. RMC provided over half a million in grant support for project enhancements.

Mr. Stanley reviewed two projects relating to the Los Cerritos Wetlands (LCWA). This includes the Acquisition of the Bryant Properties which are now in negotiation with the Bryant Family. RMC is anticipating reaching an agreement regarding the acquisition for the property. Currently both RMC and the Wildlife, Fish and Game Department have granted two (2) million with anticipated additional funds. The LCWA Planning and Restoration project is within the same wetlands area. EIR conducted a conceptual planning and is now in the environmental review process with anticipation of a draft in early 2020 that will also be available for public comments.

Mr. Stanley concluded the projects review by informing the board that the Phil and Nell Soto Park concluded their construction, a dedication for the park would occur early 2020. The Board will be invited to the dedication ceremony once RMC is made aware of the date.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THW WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (RMC14001).**
10. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE VASQUEZ PROPERTY ACQUISITION PROJECT (RMC 16001).**
11. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT EXTENSION TO THE CITY OF FULLERTON FOR THE WEST COYOTE HILLS OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION PROJECT (RMC 17007).**
12. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK ARROYOS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (RMC17020).**
13. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DUCK FARM HOUSE PROJECT (RMC17023).**
14. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO RATIFY AMENDMENTS TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PRE-CONCEPT**

TECHNICAL SERVICES, INCLUDING WASTE REMOVAL AND COORDINATION AND TIMELINE EXTENSION FOR A COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (RMC18513).

15. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO AMEND A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT (RC19505).**

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

16. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A SELECTION COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE PROPOSERS UNDER A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR A COMMUNITY CULTURAL ART CENTER IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES.**

Mark Stanley reviewed this proposal with the board. If approved this recommendation to the board will establish a selection committee to evaluate Proposers under a Request for Proposal to provide Architectural Design Services for a Community Cultural Art Center in Southeast Los Angeles. Submittals were evaluated based upon nine areas of selection criteria for those firms who have complied with the minimum qualification requirements. Interviews with top proposers are anticipated for the first week of December. It is anticipated that a special meeting will be held on December 16, 2019 where the Selection Committee will make a recommendation to the RMC Board for final approval. Payments to consultants and/or contractors will only be made for work satisfactory provided and approved by the RMC. All terms of this solicitation for service qualifications and tasks order for service shall be satisfied and required to be met by consultants and contractors. The Project is anticipated to include approximately 95,000 sq. ft. of building programming and 500,000 sq. ft. of Site Programming.

Board Member Bertone asked if the RMC is funding this project? Mr. Stanley responded that this grant will come from RMC and funds will come from a budget allocation versus a bind fund.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

17. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR INFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL (IT) SERVICES AND SUPPORT, INCLUDING CYBER SECURITY (RMC19507).**

Salian Garcia stated that if approved RMC would contract a professional service for Informational Technological (IT) Services and Support, including Cyber Security, to Cyber Specialists, Inc. Ms. Garcia explained that RMC has historically outsourced its IT Services due to the size of staff. The last contract was with Cyber Specialist with all options to extend being exhausted leading to termination in September. RMC released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in August via the RMC website, the State IT Procurement site, utilized the Small Business Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise, and posted directly to 20 small business IT consulting firms in LA County in order to continue with services without interruption. Although, by the deadline of the RFQ only one proposal was received by our former contractor. The deadline was extended and solicited to additional IT firms and did

not receive any additional proposals. RMC is seeking to enter into a two-year term with the option to extend another two (2) years with a value not to exceed \$70, 000 per fiscal year.

Board Member Reilly asked how much the difference is from the previous contract? Ms. Garcia responded there was a 10% increase since the last contract.

Board Member Massa-Lavitt asked if there was a need for additional RFQ? Chair Colonna answered that its vey difficult to find an IT Service that can perform all of the services your company requires. Even if there is a 10% increase its worth sticking with the company.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTIANS CONSERVANCY TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STUDIO MLA FOR THE COMPTON CREEK PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (RMC19508).

Marybeth Vergara recommended to approve a professional service agreement with Studio MLA for the planning and implementations of the Compton Creek project. The scope of Studio MLA's services would prioritize reports that have been completed within the Compton Creek Watershed for the past 10 years and will identify projects that can be implemented through this process. If approved Studio MLA will assist with putting together planning and working groups comprised from community, and local non-profits, with support from Assembly Member Mike Gibson's Office who made the successful budget request of \$3 million for the Compton Creek project. Ms. Vergara explained Compton Creek lays within RMC territory so the funding which came from the Budget Act of 2019 was directed to the RMC for budget management specifically for the project. RMC anticipates the scope of work will take at least a year with a hope to expedite to nine (9) months.

Board Member Martin asked the Prop 1, Prop 68 and General Funds; is that from the projects that come about as a result of this particular standing effort? Ms. Vergara replied that this work will come from the General Budget Fund Act; however, if there are projects that are identified by that working group, they may be funded out of that general source including Prop 1.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve this item. Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

19. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL FOR THE VIEW PARK AND RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPEMNT PROJECT (RMC17001).

Marybeth Vergara recommended the board to authorize a grant amendment to the City of Signal Hill for budget augmentation and timeline extension. The grant was originally approved as a Prop 1 funding and had scored higher because it had heavy water recycle elements. Today's grant incorporates the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) to help with construction as well as a recycled water system that utilizes abandoned pipelines. When the City was ready to construct the pipelines, they found a matrix of old pipelines that could be reused. This caused many delays with the project, and need for an additional \$400, 000, bringing the grant total to \$2.4 million.

Board Member Reilly asked for clarifications about the additional \$400, 000? Ms. Vergara responded that this increase was due to the delay in the project, this resulted in a 3% increase each year.

Board Member Reilly followed up the question by asking how the oil pipes would work for recycled water? Ms. Vergara responded that there are water waste pipelines that are in good shape and with some reconditioning can be utilized.

Board Member Clark asked which pipes were being used? Ms. Vergara responded there are brine water pipes that pumped saltwater out for disposal. The consistency is like the recycled water and is confident it will be safely processed in those pipes.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

20. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA FOR THE CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER REGIONAL INFILTRATION PROJECT (RMC19003).

Sally Gee recommended to approve a Proposition 1 grant to the City of Santa Clarita for the Development of the Canyon Country Community Center Regional Infiltration Project. Having received a grant score of 106.6/132 during the Round Two Call of Projects, RMC suggested funding of the planning components for the project only. This includes a total amount of \$1,076,921, in Proposition 1 funds from RMC and matching funds of \$1,632,758 provided by the City of Santa Clarita for Phase 1. Phase 2 of the project will also be financed by the City of Santa Clarita. RMC funding Phase 1 will construct stormwater infiltration systems underneath two of three parking lots on the property that will have the capacity to treat and infiltrate 7.5-acre feet, about 2.5 million gallons, of polluted stormwater during most rain events.

Board Member Reilly asked how much of the matching funds is RMC putting in? Ms. Gee responded that the City of Santa Clarita is putting in more than half of the matching funds themselves.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

21. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE CAMP FIRE ANGELES CHAPTER FOR THE SHIWAKA URBAN FOREST RESTORATION AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROJECT (RMC19004).

Joseph Gonzalez explained this is a planning grant request for Proposition 1 funding in the amount of \$46,259 to the Camp Fire Angeles Chapter for the Shiwaka Urban Forest Restoration and Landscape Development Planning Project. The submitted application during the Round Two Call of Projects proposes its third and final phase of landscape development for the Urban Forest at Camp Shiwaka which is located to the west of the San Gabriel River on the west side of the DWP/Southern California Edison easement. The Camp Fire Angeles readdressed their Master Plan for Camp Shiwaka for more intentional use as environmental education center and included five (5) elements: three (3) explicit outdoor education spaces with natural landscaping, replacing a seldomused, oversized amphitheater, vernal pool and dry creek beds intended to collect and filter rainwater on campus, a rest stop/bike stop along northern boundary, just west of entry way, reclaimed water and smart irrigation station, and additional native landscaping elements to the site.

Board Member Bertone pointed out that there are already completed portions of the project; does this mean they need additional funding? Mr. Gonzalez responded that the amphitheater was built poorly, and the space is unusable. With the redesign of the back area into an educational area requires more funding.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

22. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 1 GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPELENTATION OF THE LA RIVER RANGER PROGRAM REACH ZONES (RMC19005).

Marybeth Vergara explained that RMC and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) established an agreement to implement Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), also known as the River Ranger Bill of 2018 required both Conservancies to collaborate with multiple state and local agencies to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers along the entire 51-mile Los Angeles River and its tributaries. The Conservancies agreed to implement AB 1558 with support from their JPAs – WCA and MRCA. Currently, work is being done to establish next steps to rollout the River Ranger Program and the establishment of REACH (River, Education, Adventure, Community, and Habitat) Zones. This will include developing interpretive programming, recreation and education programs and providing on-going public engagement to let river-adjacent communities know that the pilot is coming and gauge overall public views and evaluation of the program. State funding has been identified to implement an initial two-year seasonal River Ranger pilot program rollout starting this summer 2020 along one or more reaches of the Lower LA River.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

23. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE VASQUEZ OVERLOOK ACQUISITION PROJECT (RMC19006).

Sally Gee recommended approving a grant in the amount of \$1,064,200 to the WCA for the Vasquez Overlook Acquisition Project. The acquisition of Vasquez Overlook is expected to be completed in early 2020, with a biological survey of the parcel completed in spring 2020, a land management plan for both of WCA's Vasquez acquisitions, as well as pre-acquisition activities. Acquisition of the 39-acre Vasquez Overlook parcel (AIN#: 8684-024-001) protects one of the last remaining undeveloped private holdings along the foothill interface between the San Gabriel Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument from development, in order to support watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship, and compatible public uses.

Board Member Bertone asked if this land is located above HQ? Ms. Gee responded yes and that it won the other face of the mountain.

Board Member Reilly asked what the City of Pasadena open space was? Jane Tsong responded that water lines take up most of the space there, but there is a future goal to create a trail that will connect the city to RMC headquarters.

Board Member Bishop asked if the funding was for planning or acquisition? Ms. Tsong responded it is primarily for acquisition.

Board Member Clark asked if GMOC was involved with this transaction? Mark replied, No.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve this item. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0

24. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

25. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Stanley announced a special meeting would be held Monday, December 16, 2019.

26. 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