

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

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

Held at  
**TELECONFERENCE MEETING VIA ZOOM ADDRESS: <https://zoom.us/j/86112097347>  
Or by phone at 1-669-900-9128; Meeting ID #861 1209 7347**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:34 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. Gary Boyer

Ms. Liz Reilly

Mr. Denis Bertone

Ms. Sandra Massa-Lavitt

Mr. Roberto Uranga

Vice Chair Dan Arrighi

Ms. Margaret Clark

Ms. Joe Kalmick

Mr. Amanda Martin (for Secretary Crowfoot)

Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Blumenfeld)

Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)

Mr. George Gomez (for Mark Pestrella)

**Members Absent**

Mr. Matt Almy (for Ms. Bosler)

Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)

Vacant (for Senator Gonzalez)

Ms. Christy Suppes (for Mr. Bazmi)

Ms. Marisol Barajas (for Assembly member P. O'Donnell)

Mr. Ed DeMesa (for Ms. Colloton)

Mr. Jerry Perez (for Mr. Moore)

Mr. Ali Saleh

Mr. John Walsh (for John Donnelly)

**Staff Present**

David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

Salian Garcia, Accounting Analyst

Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

Joseph Gonzalez, Project Manager

Sally Gee, Project Manager

Arturo Gonzalez, Project Manager

Jennifer Fierro, Executive Secretary

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections noted by the Board.

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

Salian Garcia stated that there will be a May Revise with the Assembly Budget Sub Committee #3. She explained it will take place on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 10AM with additional information to be found on their website.

**B. Capital Outlay and Support Budget**

Salian Garcia explained that the report reflects balances as of April 30, 2020. She noted two project grants for RMC19004, Shiwaka Urban Forest, and RMC19009, Lower LA River Pocket Park, are still waiting encumbrance. She explained that as of today the two projects were certified by the Contracted Fiscal Service department. She reported that Exhibit A Support & Operations Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 displays expenditures that have been incurred thru April 30, 2020. Exhibit B shows no advanced funds received. And Exhibit C shows all the current contracts.

Board Member Clark asked for clarification in response to Budget Letter 20-11 Budget Restrictions and Reductions and if the State will move funding away from projects that was approved through propositions. Is that the situation, is that what they are doing here? Ms. Garcia responded that regarding General Funds (GF), they are having a reduction against the Budget Act of 2019 for \$3M Compton Creek and \$3M Lower LA River funding. She explained that for now, when it comes to propositions there is no direction on whether RMC can’t continue approving grants. She stated that she submits a list of exemptions every week to Resources and they consolidate it to Department of Finance in order for RMC to proceed with certain contracts or purchase orders.

Board Member Clark followed up her question and asked, if the projects are being held back by the State Budget? Ms. Garcia responded, currently no.

CNRA representative, Amanda Martin added that as a part of the broader bond process, all requests for bond funded extensions, re-encumbrances, and extensions have been approved to go forward as part of May Revision. If there are any GF legislative investments that were not encumbered, then those are being proposed by Administration to revert, although, that is still pending proposal.

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

Ms. Garcia reported these are projects identified by funding source, Proposition 1, 40, 50, and 84 and reflects changes since June 2019 update. As of this date RMC has authorized 261 total projects, which consist of 202 completed projects, 45 are certified, 2 approved and awaiting encumbrance, and with the remaining balance of 12 withdrawn projects.

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

The Project Managers gave updates about the various projects and activities for RMC.

Joseph Gonzalez reviewed, Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530), and stated that these IAG meetings for Spring have been cancelled. The next meeting is likely to take place in the summer and he will provide dates at the next Board Meeting in June.

Joseph Gonzalez then reviewed, the IRWMP Planning Activities, and stated the Department of Water Resources released a draft recommendation funding list for four (4) funding areas. He stated a final list would be provided in June 2020.

Joseph Gonzalez gave a review of the Los Angeles River Master Plan Update—LA County, that he explained had a draft that was released in January 2020 to stakeholders, but due to delays related to the pandemic, County Public Works is also developing a draft programmatic EIR for the projects identified in the plan. Once the draft programmatic EIR is finalized it and the draft Master Plan will be presented to the public most likely fall 2020.

Marybeth Vergara reviewed the San Gabriel River and Wilderness Park Restoration Downey (RMC17002), and stated that there was an approval last July 2019 for this project that doubled as a request for rescoring of the project of which it received 80.5 out of a total 100 points. She explained that this project is now under construction, although, there have been many delays due to the pandemic it is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. She stated RMC is working actively to close out the project before the end of the fiscal year.

Joseph Gonzalez reported on Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project (RMC 17005), and stated it was completed in December and that RMC is now closing out the grant. Although, there will be some work in the spring to address weeding issues on the campus and to ensure survival of planted 2700 native plant, shrub and trees on the grounds.

Sally Gee presented the Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014), and stated that they released their draft program, their EIR, and it is now available to the public for viewing and public commentary which will span from May 8-June 22, 2020, as a part of a 45 day review period. She stated this project is moving forward and is scheduled to complete later this year.

Joseph Gonzalez reviewed the Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015), and stated this project is moving forward and is anticipated to complete by the end of June 2020. He stated they received permitting to complete the final element for the park, the parking lot, which is being completed now. Final payment should be submitted by the end of this month.

Arturo Gonzalez reported on Fernwood Avenue Development Lynwood (RMC17017), and stated that the intended project site was originally located at Lynwood Park; although due to poor percolation in the soil testing at that location, the project was moved to Fernwood Avenue and State Street in the City of Lynwood, which yielded better soil quality results. He lastly stated that after a rescoring of the project, it received 87 out of 100 total points.

Board Member Reilly, asked what the projects original score was before being rescored? Marybeth Vergara responded that it had a score of 80 points through the Proposition 1 scoring system.

Joseph Gonzalez reported on Deforest Park, which he stated had presented alternative designs to the for the Lower LA River Community Center to the public. This included the various agencies contributions to the center, as a part of the master plan. He stated that as the project continues to move forward it is being coordinated with the community and with the stakeholder teams.

Sally Gee presented Banna Community Park Project (RMC 19008), and stated that the City of Covina was able to award a construction bid so now the project is undergoing site prep. The park is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

Joseph Gonzalez presented a WCA project, the Duck Farm Project, which recently requested a six (6) month extension due to the delays with SCE approval and the pandemic. He stated that the project is currently under construction.

Marybeth Vergara lastly presented a project not included in the report and stated that Studio MLA was approved for services to move forward with the Compton Creek projects. She stated efforts began in January 2020 through working groups and identification of projects from previous planning efforts. However, she stated this project was pulled due to the States budget impact and will continue to move forward with workgroups but will need to look into different sources of funding for these projects.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

9. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE SUBVENTION AGREEMENT WITH THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (RMC19606).**
10. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (RMC 9105).**

#### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STUDIO MLA FOR THE COMPTON CREEK PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (RMC19508).**

This item was tabled.

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY TO NEGOTIATE AND APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SERVICE ORDER WITH GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS TO PROVIDE SCHEMATIC DESIGN AND CEQA PHASE SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER IN SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (RMC).**

This item was tabled.

**13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board Member Reilly commented that she would appreciate a an update as she would like to gauge how much funding the RMC will have to work with.

Board Chair, Frank Colonna, made a request for Executive Officer, Mark Stanley, and Natural Resources Agency Representative, Amanda Martin, to give an idea of what we should expect in terms of funding. Ms. Martin responded that the budget (FY 2020/2021) is expected to be passed on June 15<sup>th</sup> and because it must be published at least three days prior, she would have a better idea of what to expect.

Board Member Uranga closed the comments by commending RMC Deputy Attorney, David Edsall', successful win during a complicated Coastal Commission's case that occurred virtually. He stated it was not an easy feat and thanked him.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Colonna announced the next meeting would be held Monday, June 15, 2020.

**15. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:15 p.m.

X

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Frank Colonna  
Governing Board Chair

X

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Jennifer Fierro  
Board Secretary