

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)  
March 23, 2015**

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

And via conference call:  
Orange County Public Works Department  
2301 N. Glassell Street, Orange, CA 92865  
And  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311-Conference Room 1306  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Mr. Fujimoto administered the oath of office to new Board member Luis Marquez.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 3:06 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair	Ms. Eraina Ortega (for Ms. Matosantos)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair	Ms. Marilyn Thoms (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Ms. Margaret Clark	Ms. Terri Grant (for Ms. Farber)
Mr. Troy Edgar	Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	
Mr. Luis Marquez	

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Dan Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)  
Mr. Jon Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)  
Ms. Teresa Villegas (for Supervisor Solis)  
Ms. Lisa Mangat  
Mr. Randy Moore

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary

Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General  
Luz Quinnell, Project Manager

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Amy Jenkins spoke on behalf of the Orange County Board of Supervisors regarding SB355:Lara. Ms. Jenkins gave a synopsis of the bill and expressed that Orange County wishes to retain their two voting member seats on the RMC Board, and outlined the amendments to the bill proposed by Orange County. Ms. Clark requested clarification regarding having Senator Lara having additional representatives seated on the Board. Ms. Jenkins explained how the bill would allow for greater representation in the lower Los Angeles area. She further explained that the proposed amendment would change the voting members from 13 to 15.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no corrections noted.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. Minutes unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstention = 2.**

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**6. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

No report was given.

**7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**A. LEGISLATIVE**

The Executive Officer presented an overview and update on several state and federal legislative initiatives and how they relate to the RMC which included SB 760 (Mendoza), SB 355 (Lara), SB 317 (De Leon), AB 615 (Rendon), and AB 530 (Rendon).

Mr. Bertone requested clarification regarding the seat that would be eliminated and Mr. Stanley explained that it would be the present Governor appointed vacant seat held by Orange County. Mr. Edgar explained how Orange County has pursued having the seat filled over the years through the Governor's office, and voiced his concerns regarding the Orange County seat being eliminated. Chair Colonna mentioned the possibility of the Gateway Cities, Orange County, and San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's involvement in lobbying for their districts.

**Mr. Uranga arrived at approximately 3:25 p.m.**

**B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET**

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the remaining funds for Propositions 13, 40, 50, and 84, and pointed out that additional funding will be awarded in Fiscal Year 2015/16

including Proposition 1 funds. Mr. Stanley noted that staff will host workshops in presenting the guidelines for Prop. 1 funds and anticipates having a call for projects in the fall 2015. Mr. Stanley informed the Board that staff plans to host four public meetings to be held in the San Gabriel Valley, Gateway Communities, Orange County and the Antelope Valley, and that the notice for the public meetings will be sent out within a few weeks.

#### **C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY**

The Executive Officer reported no changes since the last Board meeting in March; and noted that there are 35 active projects.

#### **D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES**

The Executive Officer gave an update on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, the RMC's 15 Year Anniversary Event, Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail, Gateway Cities Greenways and Rivers Master Plan, Azusa River Wilderness Park, Emerald Necklace, Mount Baldy Habitat and Open Space, Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space, and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority.

#### **8. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER EDWARD WILSON, COUNCIL MEMBER FOR CITY OF SIGNAL HILL**

As Council Member Edward Wilson's term has ended, the Board recognized Mr. Wilson for his, more than a decade, membership on the RMC Board, in addition to, the WCA Board. Chair Colonna presented him with crystal wedges and gifts. Mr. Wilson spoke very passionately about his tenure on the RMC Board and the implementation and development of the Conservancy, and urged Board members, as individuals, to ask questions and become involved in matters that impact the Conservancy, and take a position on the present legislation. Mr. Wilson also suggested that the RMC's name be placed on any permanent signage at the project site; not just the temporary signs so that the community is aware, at present and in the future, that the RMC funded those projects. He thanked the Board and staff for all of their hard work.

#### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

#### **9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT WITH THE CITY OF LONG BEACH FOR THE DEFOREST PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT (RMC10006).**

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager, gave a background summary of the project and explained why the grant agreement amendment is necessary. Ms. Quinnell noted that the project completion target date is June 2016 and expect to close in December 2016.

**Ms. Clark motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Arrighi seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

#### **10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT WITH LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS TRAILS PROJECT IN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH (RMC14002).**

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager, gave a background summary and update on the project. Ms. Quinnell explained that due to re-scoping of the project, the project would be concentrated only on the Zedler Marsh property; the City of Long Beach portion of the property.

Public Comment:

Mary Parcel, El Dorado Audubon, requested clarification on how the amendment relates to the conceptual restoration study. Mr. Stanley explained by giving an overview of the conceptual restoration plan process and the property that is included in the plan. Ms. Parcel noted that there is a great deal of community interest in the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Ann Cantrell, resident, informed the Board that she attended all of the wetlands restoration workshops and voiced opposition to public trails in the wetlands in her comments. Ms. Cantrell referred to a communication that she received from Ms. Quinnell indicating that several local agencies were suggesting that more studies be done before any enhancement of existing trails in the wetlands; thus the need to amend the grant to only Zedler Marsh. Ms. Cantrell voiced concerns about public trails in sensitive wetlands, and suggested that the Board should be too. Ms. Cantrell also voiced concerns regarding technical studies being done in the wetlands and asphalt trails. Ms. Cantrell urged the Board not to amend the grant until all of the technical studies have been done and the restoration plans have been certified by the necessary agencies including the California Coastal Commission.

Janice Dahl, resident, voiced her opposition to enhancing the trails in the Los Cerritos Wetlands and expressed concerns about the negative impact that the trails would have on the wildlife. Ms. Dahl urged to the Board not to vote for more trails. However, she acknowledge support of have having toilets and fencing in the wetlands. Ms. Dahl argued that the wetlands is not a park; it is a wildlife habitat and nothing else.

The Executive Officer explained that the amendment is simply to enhance the existing trails; not to create new trails or disturb the native plants and habitat in Zedler Marsh. Mr. Stanley also explained that the restoration plan is subjected to regulatory requirements before any enhancement work can begin. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the conceptual restoration plan has a technical advisory committee comprised of 14 different federal, state, and local agencies.

There was further discussion regarding the scope of work for the enhancement of the trails and the conceptual restoration plan. Ms. Clark suggested waiting until the completion of the restoration conceptual plan to enhance the trail. Mr. Stanley explained that by doing so, it would delay the process.

**Mr. Arrighi motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =7; Nays = 3; Abstentions = 0.**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE EMERALD NECKLACE MASTER PLAN PROJECT (RMC15106).**

The Executive Officer explained how the grant funds will secure matching funds for a feasibility study of the Master Plan to identify the design, construction and implementation

costs of 44 trail connections and greenway projects along the Emerald Necklace, and gave a description of the project area. Mr. Stanley pointed out that an analysis was conducted early in the process to identify existing impediments and opportunities to create barrier free crossings at channel and railroad crossing, bridges, and/or underpasses for a seamless multi-use trail loop along the Emerald Necklace. Mr. Stanley informed the Board that the RMC would be a funding partner with various agencies to complete the programmatic environment impact report, and that this part of the project would be Phase 1. Mr. Stanley noted that the RMC would be the lead agency on the project.

Mr. Bertone requested that staff gave a presentation on the Emerald Necklace. There was further discussion regarding the project's participating agencies,

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FY 2015/16 BUDGET.**

The Executive Officer explained that in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Powers Agreement, adoption of the WCA budget by the RMC Governing Board is required. Mr. Stanley gave an overview of the administrative, personnel, operations, and capital outlay (grants and special projects) reports, and pointed out the total amount of \$4,990,469. There was discussion regarding the change in the employer tax. Ms. Clark questioned if she approved the budget would she be approving the Discovery Center project as she has concerns with certain elements of that project. Mr. Stanley explained that she would not be endorsing the project by approving the budget nor would she be approving any funding for the project.

**Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Arrighi seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; Abstentions = 0.**

**13. APPOINTMENT OF A RMC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.**

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the appointment of an RMC Board member to the WCA Governing Board of Directors, and WCA Board member positions. Chair Colonna explained why the WCA was created. Mr. Colonna appointed Mr. Uranga as the RMC representative and Mr. Uranga accepted.

**14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chair Colonna pointed out that the Executive Officer's employee performance evaluation would take place in the near future and explained the employee performance evaluation process and appointment of a committee, and he noted that the evaluation and the report of the evaluation would be held in closed session. Chair Colonna established a committee to include Mr. Bertone, Vice Chair Arrighi, and Mr. Edgar with Vice Chair Arrighi appointed as the Chair. There was discussion regarding the committee discussing the evaluation or performance of the Executive Officer with other Board members. Chair Colonna instructed the Mr. Stanley to prepare a summary of accomplishments.

**15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2015, however Ms. Clark is not available to meet on that day and expressed concerned that the Board was not polled when the meeting date was changed from June 22, 2015 to June 29, 2015. The Executive Officer was given direction to try and reschedule the meeting for another date; preferably on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**16. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 4:55 p.m.