

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)
September 28, 2015**

**Held at the
Garvey Center
9108 Garvey Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 2:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair
Mr. Denis Bertone
Ms. Margaret Clark
Ms. Judy Nelson
Mr. Troy Edgar
Mr. John Donnelly
Mr. Roberto Uranga

Ms. Mary Anne Skorpanich (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. Terri Grant (for Ms. Gail Farber)
Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)
Ms. Eraina Ortega (Ms. Matosantos)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Luis Marquez
Mr. Randy Moore
Mr. Jon Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)
Ms. Lisa Mangat
Mr. Dan Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jorge Morales, Mayor of City of South Gate, spoke in regards to Item 10. He expressed how important the project is to the City of South Gate, and thanked the Board for their consideration.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections noted.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. Minutes approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 8; Nays = 0; Abstention = 1.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

6. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

No report was given.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

Chair Colonna presented Board members and designees with certificates of appreciation for five or more years of service. Mark Stanley presented Chair Colonna with his certificate. Chair Colonna made reference to the formation of the Conservancy and the progress that has been made since the early years.

Mr. Uranga arrived at approximately 1:38 p.m.

B. AZUSA RIVER WILDERNESS PARK

Rob Romanek, WCA Project Manager, gave a visual presentation on the Azusa River Wilderness Park entry improvements design development which included a brief overview of the history of the project, and a description of the location, the Canyon Inn site as it is today, the final concept, architecture, park entry, roundabout and bicycle path extension, the river overlook, activities to engage in at the site, capital funding, timeline, and the River Wilderness Park Master Plan. There was discussion regarding the facilities on the property.

C. EMERALD NECKLACE

Rob Romanek gave a visual presentation on the Emerald Necklace Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report which included an

overview of the collaborative process, the Emerald Necklace Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan: Master Plan, Quarry Clasp Phase I projects, Whittier Narrows Connectivity, San Jose Creek Regional Connections, Westside Multi-Use Trail and the environmental process. The next steps were also discussed. There was discussion regarding the owners of the properties.

Chair Colonna moved that Item 10 on the regular calendar be heard prior to the executive officer's reports.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

A. LEGISLATIVE

The Executive Officer gave an update on AB 530; Rendon: Lower LA River Working Group, AB 1251; Gomez: Greenway Development and Sustainment, SB 355; Lara: Amendment of PR Code relating to the RMC Board composition, and AB 208; Lara: Integrated Regional Water Management Projects.

B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the Capital Outlay and Support Budget noting that there has not been any significant changes since the last Board meeting. It was noted that there are still an unencumbered balance of funds for Prop. 50 and 84. He also gave an overview of the report on advance funds, support and operations, and contracts.

C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The Executive Officer reported that there are 195 total projects in which 35 of those projects are still active "certified" and 160 are completed.

D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

The Executive Officer gave an update on the Azusa Geology Park project, Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek project, Duck Farm project, Gateway Cities Greenways and Rivers Master Plan, and Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RMC PROPOSITION 1 GRANT GUIDELINES.

The Executive Officer reported that upon approval of the item, staff will begin the call for projects phase to provide funding for projects under the Water Bond; Prop. 1. It was noted that the Prop. 84 guidelines were very comprehensive and was used as a model for the Prop. 1 guidelines. He reminded the Board that the RMC received a \$30 million allocation from the Water Bond although it will not be granted to the Conservancy all at once. It was also noted that staff held a series of meeting throughout the RMC territory and the Executive Officer thanked Board Members Denis Bertone, Janet Chin and Margaret Clark for attending the meetings. He pointed out that there were some common themes in the responses that were received regarding the grant guidelines: minimum and maximum funding available, points for water sustainability, consideration for cities that are

implementing Watershed Management Plans and Enhanced WMPs, the level of emphasis on community outreach, how will cities that lack staff capacity compete for the funding, how will the RMC and SMMC compete for the \$100 million in funding, how points would be allocated according to each program area, timeframe of project completion; originally indicating three years in the RMC Grant Guidelines versus the standard five year requirement, matching fund requirements, and youth employment criteria and/or using the California Conservation Corps. Board members were referred to staff's responses to the questions which was included in the staff report as Exhibit E, and the schedule for proposal submittals and awarding of funds for projects. It was further noted that in response to a city survey that was completed by 38 cities, a total of 65 projects were submitted for a total request in the amount of \$276 million, and the projects included water retention, water capture, and clean-up. The Executive Officer informed Board members that there was another source of funding that is a part of the water bond under Section 79735(a) in the amount of \$100 million that will be allocated for projects to protect and enhance urban creeks within the territory of SMMC and RMC however no determination on disbursements has been decided by legislators. He announced that the final grant program guidelines are available on the RMC website. Mr. Edgar voiced concerns regarding the matching funds and the Executive Officer explained how meeting the criteria works. There was discussion as to how the funds will be allocated and the bond sale process.

Mr. Edgar motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =10; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE CITY OF SOUTH GATE FOR THE STATE STREET PARK/SOUTHERN AVENUE BIKEWAY PROJECT (RMC15105).

Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager, explained that the proposed grant funds would be used for the Department of Water and Power right-of-way that runs from Alameda Avenue east towards the Los Angeles River and would develop a regional class 1 bike trail along Southern Avenue. It was noted that this is the final phase and that it is shovel ready, and that the City has received several matching funds from various sources including matching funds provided by the City.

Ms. Clark motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – ayes = 10; nays = 0; 0 abstentions.

Chair Colonna left at approximately 2:40 p.m. and Vice Chair presided over the meeting.

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE A ONE YEAR EXTENSION FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES WITH SIMON COMPUTER SOLUTIONS, INC. (RMC15503).

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager, reported that the previous contract with Simon Computer Solutions, Inc. expired in June 2015, and that a resolution was approved in May 2014 for a for one year in the amount of \$36,000 with an option to extend the contract for one additional year, and staff is recommending an extension of the contract until June 2016.

Ms. Chin motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 9; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE FOR THE ROSEMEAD SAN GABRIEL POCKET PARKS IN THE CITY OF ROSEMEAD (RMC10002).

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager, explained that the project has been ongoing and has faced delays primarily because of issues related to having proposed designs approved by SCE because the project is located within an existing SCE right-of-way. It was noted that the grant agreement expired in June 2015, and that the City of Rosemead is requesting an extension of the grant through June 30, 2017. It was noted that the City anticipates moving forward in the beginning of 2016.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 9; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT (RMC15503) WITH THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA) FOR SERVICES AT THE DUCK FARM, RIVER WILDERNESS PARK, WALNUT CREEK, CITRUS HEIGHTS AND PARQUE DOS RIOS.

The Executive Officer explained that staff is requesting authorization to enter into an interagency agreement with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and management agreement with the WCA for services at the Duck Farm, River Wilderness Park, Walnut Creek, Citrus Heights, and Parque dos Rios. It was noted that the interagency agreement shall be for \$15,000 for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and that an agreement for \$20,000 will be entered into with the WCA for weed management, contractor services and coordination and oversight management of the CCC tasks. It was also noted that the CCCs provide annual brush clearance and trail work as required by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. An overview of additional work was given. The outline of the budget was presented in Exhibit A. There was discussion regarding CCC supervision and training.

Mr. Uranga motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =9; Nays = 0; 0 abstentions.

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES WATERSHEDS PROGRAM (RMC14006).

The item was tabled.

15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Denis Bertone thank WCA Deputy Executive Officer, Debbie Enos, for giving a presentation to the San Gabriel Valley COG.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on November 23, 2015 in the City of Bellflower.

17. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:56 p.m.