

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)
March 21, 2016**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair	Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair	Mr. Dan Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)
Mr. Denis Bertone	Mr. Terri Grant (for Ms. Gail Farber)
Ms. Margaret Clark	Ms. Eraina Ortega (Mr. Cohen)
Ms. Judy Nelson	Mr. John Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)
Mr. Luis Marquez	Mr. Lawrence Cooper (for Senator R. Lara)
Mr. Roberto Uranga	
Mr. John Donnelly	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Randy Moore
Ms. Lisa Mangat
Mr. Shane Silsby
Mr. Troy Edgar
Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary
Luz Quinnell, Project Manager
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were forthcoming.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Ortega noted that Mr. Cohen is now the Director of the Department of Finance.

Mr. Uranga motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Arrighi seconded the motion. Minutes approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 8; 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 gave an update on several legislative items which included AB 2444: Garcia – CA Water Quality, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access Improvement Act of 2016; AB 2534: Nazarian – Los Angeles River; AB 2651: Gomez – Greenway Easements; AB 2722: Burke – Transformative Climate Communities Program; AB 2796: Low – Active Transportation Program; SB 919: Hertzberg – Water Supply: Creation or augmentation of local water supplies; SB 1374: Lara – Lower Los Angeles River; and AB 530: Rendon – Lower L.A. River Working Group (signed into law by the Governor 10/9/15).

B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET

The Executive Officer noted that there are no remaining Prop. 13 and 40 funds, Prop. 50 has remaining funds of just over one half million dollars, Prop. 84 has projects pending encumbrance and the remaining funds total \$3,300,327. It was further noted that the staff report now reflects Prop. 1 funds in the amount of \$10,200,000 which was included in the 2015/16 budget, and that staff has requested allocation of additional Prop. 1 funds for fiscal year 2016/17. The Executive Officer also gave an overview of the Advance Funds Report (Exh. A), the Support Budget (Exh. B), and Contract Report (Exh. C). Mr. Bertone made an inquiry as to the \$10 million allocation of Prop. 1 funds for this fiscal year, and Mr. Stanley explained that staff only requested \$10 million this fiscal year and that staff will request additional funding.

C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The Executive Officer reported that there are 204 total projects in which 34 of those projects are still active “certified”, 4 approved waiting for certification, and 166 are completed.

D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

The Executive Officer gave an update on several projects which included the Regional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning, specifically the Leadership and Disadvantaged Communities Committees; San Gabriel Mountains National Monument; Coyote Creek-Los Alamitos Improvement Project; De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project; Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail; Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek; El Dorado Nature Center South Lake Restoration Project; and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project. In addition, he gave an update on several Watershed Conservation Authority projects which included the Azusa River Wilderness Park; and the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan. He pointed out the Los Cerritos Wetlands flyer that includes a calendar of future activities at the Los Cerritos Wetlands which was included in the staff report.

REGULAR CALENDAR

8. RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 (2014 WATER BOND) GRANT PROGRAM (2015) UPDATE.

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the grant program process activities involving several public workshops, call for projects, and the report to the Board of the 44 projects submitted to the RMC presented at the last RMC Board meeting. He pointed out that staff will bring recommendations before the Board at the next RMC Board meeting in May consisting of Tier 1 projects (highest rated) total amount of proposals received \$49 million. It was noted that that staff does not anticipate awarding funds to each of the 44 projects because many of the projects will not meet Tier 1 criteria. He explained how the majority of grant requests were for Urban Program, followed by River/Tributaries, and Mountains/Foothills, and that those projects will be reviewed by three teams consisting of a total of five reviewers; each team will be led by a RMC project manager, Jose Gardea or urbanism advisor. A description of the urban lands, river/tributary, and mountains, hills and foothills program areas was also given. He also explained that the project types submitted for consideration were for acquisition, planning, planning and development/watershed improvement, and development. The Executive Officer pointed out that the grant proposals are being evaluated using the Project Evaluation Criteria (PEC) and an overview of the evaluation process was given. There was no action taken.

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST FOR THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PARK PROJECT (RMC 15113).

Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager, informed the Board that this project is a first-of-its kind park primarily because it will include a splash pad in a residential park. She noted that the partners working with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) includes First 5 LA, Women Helping Youth and the First Supervisorial District. She explained that this project meets the RMC urgency criteria that was adopted in January 2007 and gave

an overview of the criteria, and that the project must be completed by June 30, 2016 to avoid losing the funds provide by First 5 LA in the amount of \$731,482. She further explained that there is a funding gap in the amount of \$282,470 and approval of the grant would allow for the project to move forward. Ms. Vergara gave an overview of the project area demographics and the park amenities noting that it is a passive park with some active elements.

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

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS WATERSHEDS PROGRAM (RMC15112).

Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer for the WCA, presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the GREEN project which included building and leveraging critical stakeholder engagement and collaboration; the GREEN project Web Portal; and how the WCA, partners, and stakeholders pursue funding and development to implement projects. There was Board discussion regarding the web portal and how it would benefit the RMC and other organizations with identifying funding sources. Ms. Thoms requested clarification regarding Orange County's participation in the project and Ms. Enos explained that Orange County will be included. Mr. Stanley explained that it is a valuable tool and that it would help to coordinate projects and activities across the watersheds in the RMC's jurisdiction and will give the RMC the ability to leverage funds as well. In addition, he explained that this project would allow for cities and organizations with minimal funding and resources to have access to technical resources that they otherwise not have access to.

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

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH FOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING SUPPORT FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED RANGER PROGRAM (RMC15114)

Luz Quinnell, Project Manager, gave a background overview and project description. She explained that this project is an extension of the Cattle Canyon Project in which the Council for Watershed Health, in partnership with the WCA, propose a water quality data collection and monitoring program along the upper San Gabriel River, within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. She gave a summary of the water quality data collection and field monitoring processes. Mr. Arrighi requested that the San Gabriel Water Master receive a copy of the final report. Mr. Bishop mentioned that it is important that the Council for Watershed Health coordinates with the Regional Water Quality Control Board in the developing of the data. Mr. Stanley agreed and noted that it would be made as a requirement in the grant agreement.

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

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Arrighi mentioned that he will be on vacation during the next Board meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on May 23, 2016, in the City of Bellflower.

14. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:48 p.m.

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