

DATE: September 26, 2016

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 12: Consideration of a resolution authorizing appointments of two Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board Members.

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC authorize the Chair to appoint two (2) members of the RMC Governing Board to the Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors (Board Members) through open nominations.

BACKGROUND: At its July 25, 2016 meeting, the RMC Governing Board authorized the RMC's entry into a joint powers agreement with the City of Azusa to form a new public agency to long-term manage the approximately 201 acres of open space within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. This open space is located within the City of Azusa (City), and was dedicated by the Rosedale Land Partners as required by a development agreement with the City.

The Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board consist of five (5) directors. Two members are chosen by the Azusa City Council, two are chosen by the RMC Board, and one is chosen by the Azusa Planning Commission. Each director serves a 2-year term and may be reappointed by his/her particular appointing agency. The City, which approved the joint powers agreement at its June 20 City Council meeting, appointed two (2) members of the City Council, Angel A. Carrillo and Uriel E. Macias, to the to the Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors at its August 15th City Council meeting. The one (1) Azusa Planning Commission appointment is anticipated for the next available Commission agenda, likely September 28, 2016. The intent is for the new Authority to hold its first Board meeting in October. Once the Board of Directors convenes, it can formally take actions necessary to commence with Authority business.

FISCAL INFORMATION: This proposed action has no fiscal impact.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

Section 32602: There is in the Resources Agency, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is created as a state agency for the following purposes:

- (a) To acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open-space, low-impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvement within the territory.
- (b) To preserve the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River consistent with existing and adopted river and flood control projects for the protection of life and property.
- (c) To acquire open-space lands within the territory of the conservancy.

Section 32604: The conservancy shall do all of the following:

- (a) Establish policies and priorities for the conservancy regarding the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River, and their watersheds, and conduct any necessary planning activities, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (b) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.
- (d) To provide for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Section 32614: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (f) Recruit and coordinate volunteers and experts to conduct interpretive and recreational programs and assist with construction projects and the maintenance of parkway facilities.

Further, Section 32614 provides that: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (g) Undertake, within the territory, site improvement projects, regulate public access, and revegetate and otherwise rehabilitate degraded areas, in consultation with any other public agency with appropriate jurisdiction and expertise, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602. The conservancy may also, within the territory, upgrade deteriorating facilities and construct new facilities as needed for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and interpretation, and natural resources protection. The conservancy may undertake those projects by itself or in conjunction with another local agency; however, the conservancy shall provide overall coordination of those projects by setting priorities for the projects and by ensuring a uniform approach to projects. The conservancy may undertake those projects with prior notification to the legislative body of the local agency that has jurisdiction in the area in which the conservancy proposes to undertake that activity.

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RESOLUTION 2016-22

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) AUTHORIZING
APPOINTMENTS OF TWO AZUSA-RMC JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
BOARD MEMBERS.

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The RMC is a State agency created to acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watershed, and to provide open space, low impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement and wildlife habitat restoration; and

WHEREAS, The Azusa-RMC Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement was authorized by the RMC, authorizing the creation of a joint powers agency between the RMC and the City of Azusa for long-term manage the approximately 201 acres of open space within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains; and

WHEREAS, The Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board consist of five directors, with two members appointed by the RMC; and

WHEREAS, This action authorizes the Chair to appoint two Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board members; and

WHEREAS, This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report dated September 26, 2016.
4. AUTHORIZES the Chair to appoint two Azusa-RMC Joint Powers Authority Board members.

~ End of Resolution ~

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on September 26, 2016.

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____

Terry Fujimoto

Deputy Attorney General