

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)
March 28, 2017**

Held at the

**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 1:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Frank Colonna
Vice Chair Dan Arrighi
Mr. Denis Bertone
Ms. Margaret Clark
Mr. Troy Edgar
Ms. Judy Nelson
Mr. John Donnelly
Mr. Ali Saleh

Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Ms. Karen Finn (for Mr. Cohen)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Marilyn Thoms (for Mr. Silsby)
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Johnson)
Mr. Jeff Vail (for Mr. Moore)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Roberto Uranga
Ms. Nikita Koraddi (for Senator Lara)
Ms. Armond Ghazarian (for Ms. Farber)
Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)

Mr. Jonathan Bishop (for Mr. Rodriguez)
Ms. Allison Gallagher (for Assemblymember O'Donnell)
Mr. Sean Woods (for Ms. Mangat)
Mr. Daniel Sulzer (for Colonel Colloton)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

Mr. Edsall administered the Oath of Office to new Board member Ali Saleh.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no discrepancies noted.

Vice Chair Arrighi motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Mr. Saleh and Chair Colonna abstained

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 overview and update on AB 1558: Cristina Garcia; Urban River Restoration Program, SB 693: Mendoza; Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District, AB 1235: Daly; Santa Ana Conservancy Program, SB 263: Leyva; Climate Assistance Centers, and Los Angeles County Measure A and Measure M. While there were no updates on Federal legislation in the staff report, Mr. Stanley mention HR 861, which was moving through the House of Representatives as he explained that the bill is to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He also mentioned SB 340, another bill regarding the EPA, involving program updates for 2017. Mr. Stanley mentioned that staff would continue to follow those bills and provide the Board with updates.

B. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET

The Executive Officer noted that there was a change in the original staff report regarding Proposition 13 funds noting that there are remaining funds of \$195,000. He pointed out

that additional legislation is required before funds could be appropriated from Proposition 1 under section 79735(a). Mr. Stanley provided an overview of Exhibit A: Report on Advance Funds, Exhibit B: FY 2016/17 Budget, and Exhibit C: FY 2016/17 Contract Report.

C. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The Executive Officer pointed out that the Cumulative Grant Project Status Summary Report now includes Proposition 1 projects as funding was allocated to some of those projects at the January Board meeting. He pointed out that there is no information in the project status columns for the Proposition 1 projects because none of the projects are underway as of yet.

D. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

The Executive Officer gave an overview and update on the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530), Aquarium of the Pacific Watershed Exhibit and Classroom Improvement Project, Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project, Coyote Creek-Los Alamitos Improvement Project. He also gave an overview and update on several of the Watershed Conservation Authority's projects: Duck Farm, Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve, Emerald Necklace, River Wilderness Park Project, San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon, and the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space. Mr. Stanley further mentioned that the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority Board was planning to host a retreat to discuss the future of the Discovery Center Project.

REGULAR CALENDAR

8. PRESENTATION OF THE WATTS GREEN STREETS PROJECT BY THE HARBOR WATTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (RECEIVE AND FILE)

Marybeth Vergara introduced the Executive Director of the Harbor Watts Economic Development Corporation, Chris Jordan. Mr. Jordan gave a brief presentation that included an overview of the project, project description and location, concept plan, task list and timeline, and budget.

Vice Chair Arrighi motioned to receive and file; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion.

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR FINAL PROPOSITION 1 GRANT APPROVAL TO ONE (1) PRELIMINARY APPROVED PROJECT: EMERALD NECKLACE RIO HONDO & PECK WATER CONSERVATION (RMC 17015)

The Executive Officer explained that this project is included in the Proposition 1 preliminary approval of projects, and that 14 projects received final approval by the Board in January. Claire Robinson, Director of Amigos de los Rios, gave a presentation that included an overview of the project and goals in relation to the watersheds and natural habitat, and a description of the project location and timeline. There was a discussion regarding the projects location within the City of El Monte and volunteer's involvement with the project.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Nelson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – ayes = 9; nays = 0; 0 abstention.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AWARDING A GRANT TO HEAL THE BAY FOR THE WAYS PARK PROJECT (RMC 17016)

Ms. Vergara presented a synopsis of the project which included the project amount of \$180,000 to support the completion of the multi-benefit “water smart” park in South Los Angeles, a description of the project, project background and location. She also gave an overview of the project design which was included in the staff report. Mr. Stanley mentioned that funding would be provided with Proposition 13 funds. Mr. Edgar requested clarification as to why it would be funded with Proposition 13 funds. Mr. Stanley explained that the Proposition 13 funds would revert on June 30, 2017 and staff felt it was best to identify a project in which those funds could be expended, and he noted that this project does not have some of the elements required for Proposition 1 funding and that Proposition 13 allows for more flexibility. Mr. Colonna mentioned that the area was heavily populated and Ms. Vergara explained that it was located in a disadvantaged community.

Mr. Cash motioned to approve the resolution; Ms. Clark seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote – ayes = 9; nays = 0; 0 abstention.

11. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF SENATE BILL 5 (DELEON) AND ASSEMBLY BILL 18 (GARCIA), SPECIFIC TO DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO STATE CONSERVANCIES.

Ms. Vergara provided a background summary and overview of the two Bills. She pointed out that SB 5 is an urgency measure that if approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, it would authorize the sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$3.5 billion and that AB 18, if approved by voters, would authorize issuance of State General Obligation bonds in the amount of \$3.105 billion. Ms. Vergara explained that with SB 5, there would be a direct allocation of \$125 million to the Resources Agency for the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and that would directly impact the RMC, \$75 million would be allocated directly to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as listed in Chapter 7- California River Recreation, Creek, and Waterway Improvements Program, and approximately \$6.25 million will also be set aside for the Santa Ana River Conservancy, which is a program managed through the State Coastal Conservancy. She pointed out that Chapter 8 would set aside \$120 million for the 11 Statewide Conservancies of which \$22 million would be allocated to the RMC. She further explained that AB 18 under Article 7.5 would include specific allocations to the State Conservancies in the amount of \$145 million and that the RMC would receive \$25 million of those funds.

Mr. Stanley explained that AB 18 will provide funding for the Urban Creek in the amount of \$90 million which would be allocated through the Natural Resources Agency and would be divided equally amongst the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the RMC. He noted that staff would continue to follow the Bills and provide updates to the Board. He also mentioned that under Section 8008 of SB 5, up to 5% of funding would be for community access projects. Mr. Cash mentioned that the Natural Resources Agency has not taken a position on the Bills as of yet, and noted that there are other Bills being taken under consideration. There was a discussion regarding the amount of funding being allocated to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy versus the RMC and contacting elected officials.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Nelson commented on the Aquarium of the Pacific Watershed Exhibit and noted that she asked that the Aquarium of the Pacific staff to stay in touch with her, as a representative of the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, regarding the language that they would use for the Watershed Health and Water Conservation and Education program to make sure that the language reflects the San Gabriel Valley water situation and they have been good about keeping in touch with her.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the City of Bellflower.

14. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 2:46 p.m.