

BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

May 28, 2013— Agenda Item VIII

Resolution No. 13-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING
PROGRAM FOR THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE PARK TO
PLAYA REGIONAL TRAIL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) was established by the County of Los Angeles (County) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the purpose of providing a comprehensive program to acquire, expand, and improve open space, natural habitat and recreational opportunities within the Baldwin Hills and other natural and recreational areas within the Second Supervisorial District; and

WHEREAS, the vision to create a seamless trail that connects urban residents with the Pacific coast was articulated in 2000, which resulted in cooperative efforts between various entities to develop and complete such a trail, eventually named Park to Playa; and

WHEREAS, the BHRCA partnered with Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the County Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the city of Culver City, the city of Los Angeles, the office of the Second Supervisorial District of the County and others to pursue development of Park to Playa; and

WHEREAS, there is an existing six-mile Ballona Creek Bike Path, which will serve as the western portion of the Park to Playa trail; and

WHEREAS, the proposed approximate seven-mile eastern portion of the Park to Playa trail consists of a system of walking, hiking and bicycle trails running east-southeasterly through parks, open space areas and BHRCA-owned land in the Baldwin Hills with Segment A - Culver City Park; Segment B - Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook; Segment C - Blair Hills Corridor on BHRCA-owned property; Segment D – Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) Valley Trail; Segment E - KHSRA Hilltop Connector Trail; Segment F - Janice's Green Valley Loop Trail, Segment G - Western Ridgeline Trail; Segment H - Eastern Ridgeline Trail, and Segment I - Stocker Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the design for Segment C of the trail is preliminary and requires further planning and coordination with various stakeholders to refine the trail alignment and will be subject to additional environmental analysis and review by the public and subsequent consideration by the Governing Board at that time; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, MRCA obtained a grant from the BHRCA to create a "Feasibility Study and Wayfinding Implementation Plan" (Plan) to fully evaluate the seven-mile portion of the Park to Playa trail in the Baldwin Hills and contracted with Alta Planning & Design (Alta) to prepare the Plan with said "Feasibility Study" evaluating alignment and connectivity alternatives, identifying key connection points, and exploring trail design to a level sufficient to determine the feasibility of this portion of the Park to Playa trail and it also recommended short- and long-term phasing alternatives, as well as identified necessary acquisitions, geotechnical and environmental investigations, and permitting requirements for the successful implementation of this trail; and

WHEREAS, development of the Plan, completed in November 2011, involved several phases, including coordination with project partners, data collection, evaluation of the existing environment and planning context, and extensive public participation; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, MRCA obtained a grant from the BHRCA to move forward with the current phase of implementation and planning, comprised of analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources code section 21000 et seq.) (CEQA), producing construction documents and permitting for this seven-mile segment and MRCA thereafter contracted with Alta for the CEQA analysis, creation of construction documents, and permitting; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study was prepared for the project in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, which identified potentially significant impacts of the project, albeit short term, on biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials and noise; and

WHEREAS, the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) identified mitigation measures that would avoid or mitigate those effects to a point where clearly no significant impacts would occur and those mitigation measures, which are set forth in the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and in Table 1 of the MND, and which are adopted as changes in the trail project; and

WHEREAS, BHRCA agrees to comply with the MMRP and thus there will be no significant environmental impact from the project; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Availability/Notice of Intent ("Notice") to adopt the MND was provided on January 17, 2013, having been mailed to local agencies, filed with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse, posted at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, and Culver City Hall, posted on BHRCA's website and published in the Los Angeles Times on January 17, 2013 with hard copies of the IS/MND document made available at View Park Library, Culver City Julian Dixon Library, and the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens offices for public viewing; and

WHEREAS, a thirty-day-plus review period was provided from January 17, 2013 to February 18, 2013 with a public hearing held on January 30, 2013 at the KHSRA Community Meeting Room to present the project and solicit comments; and

WHEREAS, responses to comments were provided to all comments received on the IS/MND, responding to each environmental concern raised and the "Responses to Public Comments" have been incorporated into the final MND as Exhibit E along with the MMRP and any changes made to the MND or MMRP at the meeting are incorporated into those documents; and

WHEREAS, BHRCA finds that, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the seven-mile portion of the Park to Playa trail will have a significant effect on the environment and the MND reflects BHRCA's independent judgment and analysis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of BHRCA hereby:

(1) certifies that it considered the MND and MMRP prepared for the project, together with comments received during the public review process and after; found that, as conditioned by the MMRP, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, and that the MND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Governing Board; and

(2) adopts the MND and MMRP.

Chair

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 28th day of May, 2013.

Dated:

Executive Officer