

BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

May 28, 2013— Agenda Item IX

Resolution No. 13-02

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE PARK TO PLAYA REGIONAL TRAIL PROJECT SEGMENTS A, B, AND D-I

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 after said refinement and review; 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 eastern portion of Park to Playa that led to a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which were earlier adopted by the Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, the Park to Playa project will improve existing deteriorated paths within several jurisdictions and parklands, close gaps between the existing trails by creating new and safe connections where they are needed and include trail connections to Ruben Ingold Park, Norman O. Houston Park, and other area parks; and

WHEREAS, additional improvements include new trailheads and gateway entrances with native plant landscaping and restoring habitat, decorative gates, parking lots, reconstructing sidewalks, crosswalks, shade structures, Storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs), fencing, seating, bike racks, artwork, and interpretive, wayfinding, and connection signage along portions of the entire Park to Playa connection route; and .

WHEREAS, in 2011, the MRCA obtained a grant from the BHRCA in order to move forward with the current phase of implementation and planning which includes production of construction documents and permitting for this seven-mile segment; and.

WHEREAS, staff recommends that Segments A, B and D through I of Park to Playa be approved so that staff may move forward with phased construction of the improvements identified above while reserving consideration of Segment C until a later date when Segment C is better defined and a plan for it finalized;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of BHRCA hereby approves Segments A, B and D through I of the Park to Playa trail and authorizes proceeding with completing related construction documents and permitting.

Chair

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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