

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING  
*of the*  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
*and the*  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 23, 2013

**1. Call to order.**

The 403<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma Muñoz, at 7:35 p.m. on September 23, 2013 at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, Los Angeles, California.

**2. Roll Call of Conservancy.**

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: David Szymanski; Jerome C. Daniel; Bryan Cash (via teleconference); Craig Sap; Elizabeth Cheadle; Linda Parks, Vice Chairperson, and Irma Muñoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present.

**3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.**

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allison-Claire Acker; Sean Anderson; Illece Buckley Weber; Michael Cacciotti; Elaine Freeman; Mike Mishler; Anthony Portantino; David Ross; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Bob Thompson; Marc Stirdivant; Timothy Wendler; Garen Yegparian; George Lange, Vice Chairperson; and Don Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Sean Arian; Caroline Brown; Dave Brown; Jeffrey Jennings; Alan Kishbaugh; Mary Sue Maurer; Effie Turnbull Sanders, and Nancy Stephens.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Melissa Cartelli, Associated Government Program Analyst, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

**4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.**

The Chairperson announced that Louise Rishoff; Sarah Rascon; Bobbi Johnson, and Vickere Murphy were present.

**5. Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of August 26, 2013 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of August 26, 2013 were approved as submitted.

**6. Reports.**

The Conservancy received oral reports from the Chairperson; Mr. Sap, representing State Parks; Mr. Szymanski, representing National Park Service; the Executive Director, and Mr. Lange and David Updike, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

**7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.**

Comments were made by Ms. Johnson; the Executive Director; Mr. Lange, and Mr. Wendler.

**8. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.**

The following members of the public addressed the Conservancy:

Brian Lindquist, representing SoCal Federation Scientists, on item 9(a).

Denise Dunfield, representing Physicians for Social Responsibility, on item 9(a).

William Preston Bowling, representing ACMELA.org, on item 9(a).

Carol Armstrong, representing City of Los Angeles –LA River Project office, on item 9(a).

K. Flores, representing FOLAR, on item 10.

Marion Dodge, member of the public, on item 10.

Jennifer E. Rothman, representing Save Coldwater Canyon, Inc., on item 11.

Tom Freeman, representing Hillside Federation, on item 12.

Tom Freeman, representing Canyon Back Alliance, on item 11.

John Amato, representing Harvard-Westlake, on item 11.

Edgar Khalatian, representing Harvard-Westlake, on item 11.

Alex Izbichi, member of the public, on item 11.

Jeff Jacobs, member of the public, on item 11.

Marion Dodge, member of the public, on items 11 and 12.

Lois Becker, representing BASPOA, on items 11 and 12.

**9. Consent Calendar:**

- (a) Consideration of resolution authorizing comment letter on NASA Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Demolition and Environmental Cleanup Activities at Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Ventura County.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed Hidden Creeks Residential Development Project (Application No. SPL-2013-00425-AOA) in Browns and Mormon Canyons, unincorporated County of Los Angeles.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson, Ms. Rosen, and Mr. Yegparian.

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, Item 9(a) was removed from the agenda.

Mr. Szymanski was noted as abstaining.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:**

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-17.

**CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:**

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 13-17.

**10. Presentation by United States Army Corps of Engineers on the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.**

The Conservancy received an oral report from Ms. Josephine Axt, representing United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Anderson, Mishler, Stirdivant, and Yegparian.

Comments were made Ms. Axt, Ms. Murphy, the Executive Director, and the Chair.

**11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Harvard-Westlake School Parking Improvement Plan Project (ENV-2013-0150-EIR), 3700-3701 N. Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Studio City.**

The comment letter for this item was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Comments were made by Ms. Rosen and Ms. Cheadle.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Freeman, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-18.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-18.

Mr. Daniel was noted as abstaining.

**12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on Revised Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Curtis School Project (ENV-2009-836-MND), 15871 and 15801 Mulholland Drive and 15800 and 15850 Mulholland Place, Encino.**

The comment letter for this item was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Yegparian and Mishler.

Comments were made by Ms. Rosen and the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-19.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 13-19.

**13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Los Angeles River Recreation Zone planning, City of Los Angeles.**

The staff report for this item was presented by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Anderson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Lange.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Stirdivant, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-20.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 13-20.

**14. Closed Session: (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: Pending litigation – *Kruells v. La Vina Homeowners Association, Case No. GC035668; Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Whittier, et al., Case No. BS138796, and related cases; Morris v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS127089; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority,***

*Case No. BS129503; City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and California Coastal Commission, Case No. BS129222 Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, et al. Case No. BS 121820; City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Case No. BS121650, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu, and related actions, Case No. SC 092212.*

**Initiation of litigation. Number of cases: 1. Parties: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. Mulholland Estates Homeowner's Association, Bartlein & Company, Inc., et al. The Conservancy may refer the following matter to the Department of Justice for potential initiation of litigation: Action to enforce public access rights to Fossil Ridge Park as recorded in the "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions for Mulholland Estates" recorded on August 29, 1988 as Instrument No. 88-1372488 in the Office of the Los Angeles County Recorder.**

No closed session was held.

**15. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.**

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on November 4, 2013.

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA  
Executive Director

IRMA MUÑOZ  
Chairperson