

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 22, 2014

1. Call to order.

The 413th meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parks, at 7:30 p.m. on September 22, 2014 at King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas, California.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

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

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.

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

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Melissa Cartelli, Associate Government Program Analyst, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chairperson announced that the following legislative participants were present: Senator Fran Pavley; Louise Rishoff, and Tim Pershing.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of August 25, 2014 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of August 25, 2014 were approved as submitted.

6. Reports.

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

Comments were made by Mr. Mishler, and Ms. Amy Lethbridge, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Brown and Ms. Maurer.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Cheadle.

Comments were made by Mr. Anderson.

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

The following member of the public addressed the Conservancy:

Ms. Kathy Berkowitz, representing Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, on item 13.

Mr. Roger Pugliese, representing Topanga Association for a Scenic Community, on item 13.

Ms. Linda Thompson, representing Calabasas Highlands, on item 13.

Mr. Richard Thompson, member of the public, on item 13.

Ms. Jody Thomas, representing Old Topanga Homeowners Association, on item 13.

Mr. Ken Mazur, representing Topanga Animal Rescue, on item 13.

Item No. 15 was considered next.

15. Consideration of resolution supporting Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

The Conservancy received an oral report by Senator Fran Pavley.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-55.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 14-55.

Mr. Sap was noted as abstaining from the vote.

9. Public hearing and consideration of resolution making a finding of significant public benefit and other findings in connection with the modification of promissory notes of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Chief Staff Counsel.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Cacciotti.

Comments were made by the Chief Staff Counsel.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Freeman, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-49.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-49.

10. Consideration of resolution naming the Coastal Slope Trail in Los Angeles County the Zev Yaroslavksy Coastal Slope Trail.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Anderson and Ms. Parks.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Freeman, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-50.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 14-50.

Mr. Sap was noted as abstaining from the vote.

11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire and maintain the Our Malibu Beaches mobile application.

The staff report for this item was presented by Ms. Amy Lethbridge, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Mishler.

Comments were made by Mr. Corridori; Ms. Lethbridge; Ms. Rosen; Mr. Lange, and Ms., Mikos.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-51.

Mr. Anderson was noted as voting against adoption of the resolution.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-51.

12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a project planning and design grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Eastern Simi Hills – Upper Los Angeles River Watershed area.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Freeman and the Chairperson.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-52.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-52.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Calabasas on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for 3121 Old Topanga Canyon Road (SCH No. 2014061010), Dry Creek Canyon watershed.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Cheadle and Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by 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. 14-53.

Ms. Maurer was noted as abstaining from the vote.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-53.

14. Consideration of resolution supporting Los Angeles County Proposition P, 2014 Safe Neighborhood Parks Measure.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Rosen.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-54.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Muñoz, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 14-54.

Mr. Sap was noted as abstaining from the vote.

- 15. 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*, Case No. BC448511; *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu*, and related actions, Case No. SC092212, and *Prop A Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al.*, Case No. BS145771.**

No closed session was held.

16. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on October 27, 2014.

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

Approved:

LINDA PARKS
Chairperson