

**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

July 18, 2016

**1. Call to order.**

The 431<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma Muñoz, at 7:32 p.m. on July 18, 2016 at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, Los Angeles, California.

**2. Administration of Oath of Office to Martha M. Escutia.**

Having been previously sworn in by the Speaker of the Assembly, Ms. Escutia was welcomed to the Conservancy by the Executive Director and the Chairperson.

**3. Roll Call of Conservancy.**

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Mark Vargas; David Szymanski; Steve Veres; Martha M. Escutia; Bryan Cash (via teleconference); Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson, and Irma Muñoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Luis Li, Linda Parks, and Craig Sap.

**4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.**

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Michael Cacciotti; Ed Corridori; Mark Johnson; Richard Gould; Shelley Luce; Roseann Mikos; Mike Mishler; Anthony Portantino; Henry Stern; Marc Stirdivant, and George Lange, Vice Chairperson. A quorum was not present. The following members were absent: Allison-Claire Acker; Sean Anderson; Carolyn Brown; Illece Buckley Weber; Alan Kishbaugh; Mary Sue Maurer; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Nancy Stephens; Janet Wall; Timothy Wendler; Garen Yegparian, and Don Robinson, Chairperson.

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, and Melissa Cartelli, Associate Government Program Analyst.

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

The Chairperson announced that Vickere Murphy was present.

**6. Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of June 27, 2016 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 27, 2016 were approved as submitted.

**7. Reports.**

The Conservancy received oral reports by the Executive Director; Mr. Lange, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

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

Comments were made by Mr. Lange and the Chairperson.

**9. 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. Marissa Christianson, representing FOLAR, on item 14.

**10. Special recognition to Lisa Soghor.**

Comments were made by the Executive Director; the Chairperson; Mr. Lange; Mr. Daniel, and Ms. Soghor.

**11. Presentation of potential Upper Los Angeles River Watershed projects and discussion of the impact of delay in Proposition 1 funding pursuant to Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.**

The Conservancy received an oral report from Ms. Lisa Soghor, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Escutia.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and the Chairperson.

**12. Consideration of resolution endorsing Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Measure.**

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Luce.

Comments were made by Mr. Verez; the Executive Director; the Chairperson; Mr. Szymanski, and Mr. Stirdivant.

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Verez, duly seconded, Resolution No. 16-35 was adopted.

Mr. Cash was noted as abstaining.

**13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for administrative and facility expenses for FY 16-17.**

The staff report for this item was presented by the Associate Government Program Analyst.

Questions were propounded by the Executive Director.

Comments were made the Associate Government Program Analyst and Mr. Cash.

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 16-37 was unanimously adopted.

**14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and for subcontract with Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation (RiverLA) and Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) for development**

**of a stakeholder consensus process regarding future master planning needs and appropriate funding sources, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.**

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

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Escutia, duly seconded, Resolution No. 16-38 was unanimously adopted.

**15. Consideration of resolution augmenting grant SMM-40-1267 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Towsley Canyon Acquisition, Santa Clarita woodlands.**

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

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Escutia, duly seconded, Resolution No. 16-39 was unanimously adopted.

**16. 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; *Morris v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, Case No. BC448511, and *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al. v. Southern California Edison*.**

The Chairperson commenced the Closed Session at 8:46 p.m. and announced that the following item would be discussed: *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al. v. Southern California Edison*.

The Chairperson reconvened the open session at 9:10 p.m. and announced that directions were given to staff.

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

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The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on September 26, 2016.

There being no further business, the Acting Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA  
Executive Director

Approved:

IRMA MUÑOZ  
Chairperson