

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

May 22, 2017

1. Call to order.

The 439th meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma Muñoz at 7:30 p.m. on May 22, 2017 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: Mark Vargas; Kate Kuykendall; Steve Veres; Linda Parks; Bryan Cash (via teleconference); Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson, and Irma Munoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Luis Li; Martha Escutia, and Craig Sap.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allison-Claire Acker; Caroline Brown; Illece Buckley Weber; Michael Cacciotti; Ed Corridori; Mark Johnson; Richard Gould; Patt Healy; Miguel Luna; Roseann Mikos; Mike Mishler; Janet Wall; Timothy Wendler; Garen Yegparian; George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Sean Anderson; Alan Kishbaugh; Shelley Luce; Mary Sue Maurer; Wendy-Sue Rosen, and Marc Stirdivant.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Christina Bull Arndt, Supervising Deputy Attorney General; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel, and Melissa Smith, Associate Government Program Analyst.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chair announced that Vickery Murphy and Allison Towle were present.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of March 24, 2017 were submitted for approval.

A roll-call vote was administered.

The minutes of March 24, 2017 were adopted as submitted.

Mr. Cacciotti was noted as abstaining.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy Advisory Committee received oral reports by the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and Mr. Lange, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Comments were made by Mr. Cash and Mr. Daniel.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

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

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 Advisory Committee:

Frances Alet, representing Calabasas Coalition, on matters not on the agenda.

John Suwara, representing Calabasas Coalition, on matters not on the agenda.

Alan Dymond, representing Studio City Resident Association, on items 9(a) and 13.

Beth Dymond, representing Save LA River Open Space, on item 9(a) and 13.

Mollie Helfand, representing Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, on item 14.

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

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) opposition to proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent to the Upper Los Angeles River, (b) support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's**

(Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, and (c) the use of the Conservancy name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, City of Los Angeles.

- (b) Consideration of resolution exercising first right of refusal on surplus City of Los Angeles properties (APNs 2176-026-900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905), Tarzana, City of Los Angeles.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution exercising first right of refusal pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33207(b) on proposed sale of City of Los Angeles property (APN 5562-001-902) Lookout Mountain Avenue, City of Los Angeles.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Northlake Specific Plan Project (VTT Map No. TR073336 SCH No. 2015031080), unincorporated Castaic area.**
- (e) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to County of Los Angeles on Draft Significant Ecological Areas Ordinance.**
- (f) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding the re-circulated Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Eastern Avenue-El Sereno Project, a proposed 42-lot subdivision (Case No. ENV-2015-1918-MND, Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 73531, APCE 2015-2048-ZC-ZAD) in El Sereno, Northeast Los Angeles.**
- (g) Consideration of resolution acknowledging the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's reliance on an investment value appraisal for the acquisition of a 5-acre Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor parcel to be partially funded by a Conservancy Proposition 1 grant, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Items 9(d) and 9(g) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 17-21; 17-22; 17-23; 17-25; 17-26; 17-28; 17-29; 17-30; 17-31, and 17-32.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 17-21; 17-22; 17-23; 17-25; 17-26; 17-28; 17-29; 17-30; 17-31, and 17-32.

Item 9(d). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Northlake Specific Plan Project (VTT Map No. TR073336 SCH No. 2015031080), unincorporated Castaic area.

Comments were made by Ms. Mikos.

The letter was amended to correct a typographical error.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-24.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 17-24.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Vargas.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by Mr. Lange.

10. Presentation and update on urban and river projects.

The Conservancy received an oral report by Ms. Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Wendler, the Chairperson, and Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by Ms. Meyer, the Executive Director, Mr. Kuykendall, and the Chairperson.

11. Report on Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority project milestones and timelines.

The Conservancy received an oral report by the Associate Government Program Analyst.

Comments were made by the Chairperson and Ms. Sarah Rascone, Urban River Program Officer, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Luna.

Comments were made by the Associate Government Program Analyst and the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian and Ms. Acker.

Comments were made by the Associate Government Program Analyst, the Executive Director, and the Chairperson.

12. Consideration of resolution authorizing assignment of the right to enter into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of a multipurpose easement for habitat restoration, environmental remediation, public access, recreation, and open space purposes from the City of Los Angeles over an approximately 12.5 acre portion of APN 5442-002-823, located adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Glassell Park.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

Comments were made by the Chief Staff Counsel.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-33.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 17-33.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing an augmentation to grant SMM-84-1531 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Wilacre Park Improvements, Studio City.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Mishler.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-34.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 17-34.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for wildland – development interface watershed protection plans for portions of Decker, Lechuza, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral and Puerco Canyons, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-35.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 17-35.

15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for improvements at the Los Angeles River Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway project, Studio City.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-36.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 17-36.

16. Consideration of resolution opposing AB 366 and AB 367.

The staff report was presented by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Mishler, Mr. Lange, and Mr. Vargas.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Mishler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-37.

Ms. Buckley weber was noted as abstaining.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Kuykendall, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 17-37.

Ms. Parks and Mr. Cash were not as abstaining.

Item 9(g) was considered next.

9(g). Consideration of resolution acknowledging the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's reliance on an investment value appraisal for the acquisition of a 5-acre Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor parcel to be partially funded by a Conservancy Proposition 1 grant, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

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

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Cash, Ms. Buckley Weber, and the Chairperson.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Veres.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Buckley Weber, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 17-27.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 17-27.

Mr. Cash was noted as abstaining.

17. 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. BC44851; Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al. v. Southern California Edison, and Sycamore Park Private Community Group, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.***

No closed session was held.

18. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee announced that the next meeting would be held on June 26, 2017.

There being no further business, the Advisory Committee meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

Approved:

IRMA MUÑOZ
Chairperson