

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

January 22, 2018

1. Call to order.

The 445th meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Vice Chairperson Jerome C. Daniel at 7:37 p.m. on January 22, 2018 at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.

The Executive Director administered the Oath of Office to Coltor Chislom, as designee of David Szymanski, representing the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Colter Chisolm; Steve Veres; Linda Parks; Craig Sap, and Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Martha M. Escutia; Joshua Nelson, and Irma Muñoz, Chairperson.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allison-Claire Acker; Carolyn Brown; Illece Buckley Weber; Ed Corridori; Mark Johnson; Patt Healy; Alan Kishbaugh; Shelley Luce; Miguel Luna; Mary Sue Maurer; Roseann Mikos; Mike Mishler; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Janet Wall; Tim Wendler; Garen Yegparian; George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Sean Anderson; Michael Cacciotti; Stephen Del Guercio; Perlette Jura; Ms. Stephens, and Mr. 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; Elena Eger, Staff Counsel; Melissa Smith, Associate Government Program Analyst, Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chairperson announced that Jeremy Wolf, Sara Nichols, and Tim Pershing were present.

5. Election of Conservancy Officers.

On nomination by Ms. Parks, duly seconded, Mr. Sap was unanimously elected Chairperson.

On nomination by Ms. Parks, duly seconded, Mr. Daniel was unanimously reelected Vice Chairperson.

6. Election of Advisory Committee Officers.

On nomination by Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, Mr. Robinson was unanimously reelected Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

On nomination by Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, Mr. Lange was unanimously reelected Vice Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

7. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of December 11, 2017 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of December 11, 2017 were adopted as submitted.

8. Reports.

The Conservancy received reports from State Parks; National Park Service; the Associate Governmental Program Analyst; Chief Staff Counsel, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

9. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Mikos; Ms. Rosen; the Executive Director, and Mr. Yegparian.

10. 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:

Rex Frankel, representing Chatsworth Pinnacles Wilderness Project, on item 11(a).
Marcia Hanscom, representing Sierra Club, on item 11(a).
Jonathan Coffin, member of the public, on item 11(a).
Walter Lamb, representing Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, on item 11(a).
Robert Roy Van de Hoek, representing Ballona Institute, on item 11(a).
Dorothy Reik, representing LA Count Central Committee, on item 11(a).
Leah Garland, representing Food and Water Watch, on item 11(a).
Bruce Campbell, member of the public, on item 11(a).
David Warren, member of the public, on item 11(a).
Kathy Knight, representing Sierra Club Airport Marina Group, on item 11(a).
William Mims, representing Sierra Club, on item 11(a).
Louise Steiner, representing Sierra Club, on item 11(a).

11. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution authorizing a support letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Santa Clarita regarding the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Mancara Residential Project (Master Case No. 06-349; SCH 2006041029), City of Santa Clarita.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Elysian Park Lofts Project (Case No. ENV-2016-4064- EIR; SCH 2017111011) in Chinatown, City of Los Angeles.**

Items 11(a) and 11(b) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Acker, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-03.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-03.

11(a). Consideration of resolution authorizing a support letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Rosen.

Comments were made by the Executive Director; Ms. Maurer; Ms. Luce; Mr. Yegparian; Ms. Acker; Ms. Healy; Mr. Corridori; Mr. Veres; Ms. Parks; the Chairperson, and the Chief Staff Counsel.

[The comment letter was amended. Please see attached letter subsequent to the minutes for final edits.]

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

Upon roll-call vote, 14 members of the Advisory Committee voted to adopt the resolution. 4 members voted against adopting the resolution.

On motion of Ms. Luce, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-01.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-01.

11(b). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Santa Clarita regarding the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Mancara Residential Project (Master Case No. 06-349; SCH 2006041029), City of Santa Clarita.

Comments were made by Ms. Mikos.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-02.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-02.

12. Consideration of resolution adopting the SMMC Annual Report for 2016/2017.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-04.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-04.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 Urban Creek grant to The Nature Conservancy for a stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project on the Los Angeles River.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Buckley Weber, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-05.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-05.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 Urban Creek funds to North East Trees for water capture and other improvements at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-06.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-06.

- 15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a General Fund local assistance grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition an approximately 111-acre Big Tujunga Canyon property along Big Tujunga Canyon Road, City of Los Angeles.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 18-07.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-07.

- 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. 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.

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

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held at a date and location to be determined at a later time.

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There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

Approved:

CRAIG SAP
Chairperson

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January 22, 2018

Richard Brody
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
c/o ESA (JAS)
550 Kearny Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, California 94108

**Support for Public Access Connections
from the Ballona Reserve to the Santa Monica Mountains**

Dear Mr. Brody:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) extends its support to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for proposed public access improvements to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as more fully described in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement, as long as they are sensitively designed to support the environmental resources. The SMMC has not yet taken a position in support or opposition to the other components of the proposed project. These access linkages will offer significant public benefits and ultimately expand recreational opportunities to and within the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Project objectives include development of compatible public access improvements for recreation and educational purposes at the Ballona Reserve, specifically by providing a system of entrances, public spaces and walking trails with signage, interpretation and learning opportunities focused on the natural resources and cultural context of restored uplands habitat and by providing new access for cyclists. These trails, especially the bike trails, will connect with existing bike routes that connect the Ballona Reserve to the Santa Monica Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Sap", written over the typed name.

CRAIG SAP
Chairperson