

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER & GARDENS
570 WEST AVENUE TWENTY-SIX, SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065
PHONE (323) 221-8900
FAX (323) 221-9001
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



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

December 21, 2020

1. Call to order.

The 470th meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma R. Muñoz at 10:04 a.m. on December 21, 2020 at various locations via internet and telephone pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: David Szymanski; Miguel Luna; Fran Pavley; Linda Parks; Amanda Martin; Jerry West; Steve Veres, Vice Chairperson, and Irma R. Muñoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following member was absent: Rudy Ortega.

4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allie-Claire Acker; Sean Anderson; Michael Cacciotti; Ed Corridori; Patt Healy; Kirsten James; Alan Kishbaugh; Janine Prado; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Nancy Stephens; Janet Wall; Tim Wendler; George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Vice Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Carolyn Brown; Illece Buckley Weber; Karen Buehler; Brian Dennert; Keith Eich; Perlette Jura; Edlin Lopez; Mary Sue Maurer; Rafi Manoukian, and Garen Yegparian.

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 James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The following Legislative Participants was present: Vickere Murphy

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of November 16, 2020 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of November 16, 2020 were adopted as submitted.

Advisory Committee members Anderson and Prado were noted as abstaining.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy received oral reports from the Chairperson; Mr. Szymanski; Mr. West, Mr. Lange, and the Executive Director.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Parks.

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.

Stephen Drimmer, representing Mountaingate Open Space Preservation Association, on item 9(b).

Lisa Karlan, representing Defend Ballona Wetlands, on matters not on the agenda

Marcia Hanscom, representing Defend Ballona Wetlands, on matters not on the agenda

Susanne Cumming, representing Defend Ballona Wetlands, on matters not on the agenda

John Binder, representing Mandeville Canyon Association, on item 9(b).

Robert 'Roy' Van de Hoek, representing Californian's for Defending Ecological Reserves, on matters not on the agenda

Mark Levins, representing Save Our Canyon, on item 9(c).

Tom Freeman, representing Canyonback Alliance, on item 9(b).

Eric Edmunds, Sierra Club Sierra Mountains Task Force, on item 9(b)

Mark Stratton, representing Hillside Federation, on item 9(b)

Lois Becker, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association, on items 9(b) and 9(c)

Ileana Wachtel, member of the public, on item 9(b)

Lisa Levinson, representing In Defense of Animals, on matters not on the agenda

Carolyn La Buglio, Brentwood Hills Homeowner's Association, on item 9(b)

Edward Shaw, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda

Michael Leslie, Brentwood Hills Homeowner's Association, on item 9(b)

John Given, member of the public, on items 9(b) and 9(c) and matters not on the agenda.

Jane Velez Mitchell, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda

Halina Gantwerker, member of the public, on item 9(b).

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution authorizing a letter to the City of Los Angeles Director of Planning to expedite completion and implementation of the Protection Area for Wildlife ordinance in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding the Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report (ENV-2019-4565-EIR) for the proposed Berggruen Institute Project in Mandeville Canyon and the Sepulveda Pass, City of Los Angeles.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (ENV-2018-1509-EIR) for the Retreat at Benedict Canyon project in Benedict Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the County of Los Angeles regarding the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed West Hills Crest Residential Project (No. 98123), in Bell Canyon and adjacent to Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, County of Los Angeles.**

Item 9(b) was postponed to a later date.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 20-37, 20-38, and 20-40.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Luna, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 20-37, 20-38, and 20-40.

10. Report on the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Bridge Project.

The Conservancy received an oral report from the Chief Deputy Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Wendler, Lange, and Robinson.

Comments were made by the Chief Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Pavley, and Mr. Szymanski.

11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Environmental License Plate funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Community Nature Connection Youth Leadership Series.

This item was postponed to a later date.

12. 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 – *Sycamore Park Private Community Group, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.*

No closed session was held.

13. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

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There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. and announced that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

Approved:

IRMA R. MUÑOZ
Chairperson