

**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

August 26, 2019

**1. Call to order.**

The 458<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma R. Muñoz at 7:33 p.m. on August 26, 2019 at the following locations:

**Location 1:** Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six  
Los Angeles, California  
*(Main Meeting Location)*

**Location 2:** Natural Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Room No. 1306-7  
Sacramento, California

**2. Administration of Oath of Office to new members.**

The Oath was not administered.

**3. Roll Call of Conservancy.**

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: David Szymanki; Rudy Ortega; Jerome C. Daniel; Amanda Martin & Linda Escalante (via conference phone); Martha M. Escutia, Steve Veres, Vice Chairperson, and Irma R. Muñoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Linda Parks and Craig Sap.

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

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allison-Clair Acker; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Carolyn Brown; Sean Anderson; Miguel Luna; Karen Buehler; Illece-Buckley Weber; Ed Corridori; Alan Kishbaugh; Marc Johnson; Edlin Lopez; Mike

Mishler; Patt Healy; Janet Wall, Garen Yegparian; George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Michael Cacciotti; Frank Oviedo; Mary Sue Maurer; Stephen Del Guercio; Roseann Mikos; Nancy Stephens; Perlette Michele-Jura, and Tim Wendler.

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; Elena Eger, Special Counsel; Melissa Smith, Chief, Division of Policy and Legislation, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

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

The Chairperson announced that Vickere Murphy was present.

**6. Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of June 24, 2019 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 24, 2019 were adopted as submitted.

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Wall were noted as abstaining.

**7. Reports.**

The Conservancy received reports from the Chairperson; Mr. Szymanski, representing the National Park Service; Ms. Escalante; Mr. Robinson; the Chief, Division of Policy and Legislation, and Mr. Lange, representing the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

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

Comments were made by Mr. Yegparian.

**9. 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:

Mr. Juan Corral, member of the public, on item 17.

**10. Consent Calendar:**

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the County of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sterling Ranch Estates Residential Project, unincorporated Val Verde, County of Los Angeles.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Moorpark on the Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report for the Hitch Ranch Specific Plan, Santa Susana Mountains.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Mishler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 19-43 and 19-44.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Escutia, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 19-43 and 19-44.

**11. Presentation on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program and the Woolsey Fire Response, Recovery, and Restoration.**

The Conservancy received an oral report by Ms. Smith.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Rosen and the Chairperson.

Comments were made by Ms. Smith and Mr. Szymanski.

**12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.**

The staff report for this item was presented by Ms. Smith.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Miller.

Comments were made by Ms. Smith.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Wall, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-45.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-45.

**13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of General Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Woolsey Fire Recovery and Restoration.**

Questions were propounded by Ms. Escalante.

Comments were made by Ms. Smith.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-46.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-46.

**14. Public Hearing and adoption of Resolution No. 19-47 making a finding of significant public benefit and other findings in connection with a Proposed Revolving Credit Agreement for, and issuance of related promissory notes by, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to finance the Authority's grants and annual operating costs.**

Comments were made by Mr. Robinson and the Chairperson.

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

Comments were made by Ms. Sheryl Lewanda, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-47.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-47.

**15. Consideration of resolution approving Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Anderson; Ms. Escalante; Mr. Luna, and the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Mr. Mossaad, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-48.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-48.

**16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to Tree People for the Studio City Greenway Restoration project, City of Los Angeles.**

Questions were propounded by Ms. Rosen, Ms. Escalante, and Mr. Veres.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-49.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-49.

- 17. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 planning grant to the Friends of the Los Angeles River for an ecosystem feasibility study, City of Los Angeles.**

This item was tabled.

- 18. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 Urban Creek funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Los Angeles River Environmental Flows Study Supplemental Analysis, County of Los Angeles.**

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

Comments were made by the Chief Deputy Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-51.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-51.

- 19. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to The Discovery Cube for nature trail planning, Hansen Dam area, City of Los Angeles.**

Questions were propounded Ms. Lopez; Mr. Veres; Mr. Lange, and Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-52.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-52.

- 20. Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 68 project planning and design grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for visitor facilities on dedicated and acquired open space within the former Verdugo Hills golf course, La Tuna Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 19-53.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Veres, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 19-53.

- 21. 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.

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

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on September 23, 2019.

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m in memory of Marc Stirdivant.

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Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA  
Executive Director

Approved:

IRMA MUÑOZ  
Chairperson