



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

July 3, 2013

I. Call to order.

The 477th meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairperson George Lange, at 2:20 p.m. on July 3, 2013, at the Conejo Recreation and Park District, 403 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, California.

II. Roll Call.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Jim Hasenauer; Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson, and George Lange, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following member was absent: Larry Peterson.

Staff Present: Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer, FAICP, Hon, ASLA; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Laura Ratcliffe, Staff Counsel; Walt Young, Chief of Operations; Michelle Renner, Interpretation Specialist; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Dash Stolarz, Director of Public Affairs; Dave Updike, Chief of Fire Division; Fernando Gomez, Chief Ranger; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, and James Yeramian, Staff Services Manager.

III. Public Testimony on all agenda items, public comment on matters not on the agenda.

The following members of the public addressed the Authority:

Mr. William Preston Bowling, member of the public, on item X.

IV. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of June 5, 2013 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 5, 2013 was approved as submitted.

V. Reports.

The Authority received oral reports from the following members of staff: Chief Staff Counsel; Chief Ranger; Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Interpretation Specialist; Chief of Construction; Chief of Fire Division; and Ms. Sheryl Lewanda, representing Conejo Recreation and Park District.

VI. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution adopting the MRCA Warrant Disbursements for the period of May 24, 2013 to June 23, 2013.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Leavitt & Associates for strategic planning in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution confirming amended assessments and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution confirming amended assessments and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles.**
- (e) Consideration of resolution adopting Engineer's Report, confirming the annual levy of maintenance assessment for fiscal year 2013-2014 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (f) Consideration of resolution adopting Engineer's Report, confirming the annual levy of maintenance assessment for fiscal year 2013-2014 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles.**
- (g) Consideration of resolution authorizing the Chairperson to fill vacancies in positions for which the governing board has the appointing power, subject to reporting of such action at the next regular meeting.**

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 13-91; 13-92; 13-93; 13-94; 13-95; 13-96, and 13-97 were unanimously adopted.

VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for interpretive and preservation improvements at the San Vicente Mountain Park, Los Angeles.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Director of Public Affairs.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer and the Chief of Operations.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 13-98 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Funds towards the acquisition of APN 4448-018-018 (1809 Tuna Canyon Road), adjacent to Rocky Ledge, in the Topanga Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 13-99 was unanimously adopted.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into an agreement with the County of Los Angeles to use Proposition 62 funds towards the acquisition of APN 4448-018-018 (1809 Tuna Canyon Road) in the Topanga Canyon watershed, adjacent Rocky Ledge, and authorizing the acceptance of said funds, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 13-100 was unanimously adopted.

X. Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Proposition A Funding to acquire approximately 6.28-acre parcel APN 4448-018-018 (1809 Tuna Canyon Road), adjacent to Rocky Ledge; (b) entering into a Project Agreement, and (c) authorizing acquisition of said parcel in the Topanga Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Will Wild. Under consideration: price and terms. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 54956.8 of the Government Code.)*

This item was discussed in closed session.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 13-101 was unanimously adopted.

XI. Closed Session.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Government Code §§ 54956.8 and 54956.9 Confidential memoranda related to these items may be considered during such closed session discussions.

Conference with legal counsel. Number of cases: eleven (11). (1) *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu, and related litigation*; (2) *City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS121650*; (3) *City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS12922*; (4) *Malibu-Encinal Homeowners Association v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BC431798*; (5) *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS127089*; (6) *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Case No. BS121820*; (7) *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS129503*; (8) *Morris v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*; (9) *Everett v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; (10) *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Whittier, Matrix Oil Co. and related entities, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors*; and (11) *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Coldwater Investments*.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9: conference with legal counsel regarding claim of liability and exposure to litigation. Claimant: William Jeffrey Ball.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957: Conference with Chief Staff Counsel and Chief Operations Officer regarding security of agency buildings and facilities.

The Chair convened the closed session at 2:57 p.m. and announced that the following item would be discussed: Item X; *Morris v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*

and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS127089; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Case No. BS121820; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS129503; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Whittier, Matrix Oil Co. and related entities, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and conference with legal counsel regarding claim of liability and exposure to litigation. Claimant: William Jeffrey Ball, and Conference with Chief Staff Counsel and Chief Operations Officer regarding security of agency buildings and facilities.

The Chair reconvened the open session at 3:59 p.m. and announced that directions were given to staff regarding: Item X; *Morris v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS127089; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Case No. BS121820; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS129503; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Whittier, Matrix Oil Co. and related entities, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and conference with legal counsel regarding claim of liability and exposure to litigation. Claimant: William Jeffrey Ball, and Conference with Chief Staff Counsel and Chief Operations Officer regarding security of agency buildings and facilities.*

XII. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on August 7, 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon, ASLA
Executive Officer

George Lange
Chairperson