



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

March 4, 2015

I. Call to order.

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairperson George Lange, at 2:00 p.m., on February 4, 2015, 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: Larry Peterson; Jim Hasenauer; Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson, and George Lange, Chairperson. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer, FAICP, Hon, ASLA; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Jeff Jones, Assistant Financial Officer; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Cara Meyer, Chief of Special Projects; Ken Nelson, Chief of Fire Division, 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. Jess Thomas, representing Coalition to Save Chesebro Meadow, on item VI(c).
Mr. Robert Mionske, member of the public, on item VII.
Ms. Kim Schucte, member of the public, on item VII.

IV. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of February 2, 2015 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of February 2, 2015 were approved as submitted.

V. Reports from staff.

The Authority received oral reports from the Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Chief of Fire Division; Chief Ranger; Chief Staff Counsel; Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Chief of Construction, and the Assistant Financial Officer.

VI.(a) Consideration of resolution adopting the MRCA Warrant Disbursements for the period of January 26, 2015 to February 25, 2015.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-29 was unanimously adopted.

- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of multiple parcels, approximately 0.43 acres combined, APNs 4371-015-013, and 020; 4371-016-025; 4371-024-004; 4371-041-012, and 019; and 4380-030-010, throughout Beverly Glen Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

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

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-30 was unanimously adopted.

- (c) Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor parcels and acquisition of said parcels, Agoura Hills and unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Questions were propounded by the Chair and Mr. Hasenauer.

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

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-31 was unanimously adopted.

VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a project agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for Devil and Browns Canyon parcels, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

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

Questions were propounded by the Executive Officer and Mr. Hasenauer.

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

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-32 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the protection and restoration of natural and developed resources by removal of invasive plant species, reduction of hazardous fire-fuel loads, and erosion protection.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Chief of Fire Division.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-33 was unanimously adopted.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) the addition of APNs 4380-021-019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 024 and 025, to the Final Engineer's Report for Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1; (b) and the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1 funds to acquire said parcels, approximately 0.40 acres combined, and (c) acceptance of private funds toward this acquisition, Beverly Glen Canyon, City of Los Angeles. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Martin Reiner. Under consideration: price and terms. (This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8).

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

This item was heard in closed session.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded, Resolution No. 15-34 was unanimously adopted.

X. Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Pareto Planning for environmental services for the Pacoima Wash Bikeway project.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Chief of Special Projects.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded Resolution No. 15-35 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: twelve (12). (1) *Kaplan v. State of California, et al.*, Case No. BC520639; (2) *Malibu-Encinal Homeowners Association v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, Case No. BC431798; (3) *Morris v. City of Los Angeles, et al.*, Case No. BC448511; (4) *Everett v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, Case No. BC466880; (5) *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Whittier, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, et al.*, Case No. BS136211, and related cases; (6) *Friends of the Hastain Trail, et al. v. Coldwater Investments, et al.*, Case No. BC469573; (7) *Prop "A" Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al.*, Case No. BS 145771 and related cases; (8) *Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, The Trust for Public Land, et al. v. City of Whittier, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al.*, Case No. BS146670 and related cases; (9) *Friedman v. King Gillette Ranch, et al.*, Case No. BC540277; (10) *Denman, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; (11) *Perez v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, and (12) *Smaldino and Simak v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*.

The Chair commenced the closed session at 3:19 p.m. and announced that Item IX, and the following cases would be discussed: *Kaplan v. State of California, et al.*, Case No. BC520639 and *Friedman v. King Gillette Ranch, et al.*, Case No. BC540277.

The Chair reconvened the open session at 3:26 p.m. and announced that Item IX was discussed and updates with given on the following cases: *Kaplan v. State of California, et al.*, Case No. BC520639 and *Friedman v. King Gillette Ranch, et al.*, Case No. BC540277.

XII. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on April 1, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joseph T. Edmiston
Executive Officer

Approved:

George Lange
Chairperson