



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

April 5, 2017

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 April 5, 2017, 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, and George Lange, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following member was not present: Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chairperson

Staff Present: Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer, FAICP, Hon, ASLA; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Oscar Victoria, Staff Counsel; Fernando Gomez, Chief Ranger; Tim Miller, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer of Construction; Amy Lethbridge, Chief of Outreach and Engagement; Melissa Smith, Assistant Government Program Analyst; Ana Staabe, Chief of Park Development; Ken Nelson, Chief of Fire Division; Sheryl Lewanda, Assistant Financial Officer, Sally Garcia, Project Analyst, and James Yeramian, Staff Services Manager.

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

No members of the public addressed the Authority.

IV. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of March 22, 2017 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of March 22, 2017 were adopted as submitted.

V. Reports from staff.

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

VI. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution accepting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority warrant disbursements for the period of February 17, 2017 to March 16, 2017.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of approximately 0.36 acres, APN 4444-026-024, Topanga Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing entering in a contract with the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition and acquisition services, Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor east of Colima Road, County of Los Angeles.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution authorizing contract with Vision y Compromiso for training for the Community Liaison Pilot Project.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with SCI Consulting Group for administration of Community Facilities Districts 1 and 2 (Open Space Protection and Fire Prevention) for fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22.**
- (f) **Consideration of resolution approving the application for grant funds for California Climate Investments Urban Greening program for land acquisition and trail and public access improvements at Elephant Hill.**
- (g) **Consideration of resolution in opposition to proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent the Upper Los Angeles River, and in support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, authorizing the use of the MRCA name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, City of Los Angeles.**

- (h) Consideration of resolution accepting transfer of approximately 4.12 acres, APN 5762-002-005, from the Sierra Madre Conservancy.**
- (i) Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant to produce wildland – development interface watershed protection plans for portions of Decker, Lachusa, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral and Puerco Canyons, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu.**
- (j) Consideration of resolution authorizing designation of applicant’s agent resolution for non-state agencies.**

Item VI(h) was postponed to a later date.

Items VI(b); VI(c); VI(d); VI(f), and VI(g) were removed from the consent calendar.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded Resolution Nos. 17-51; 17-55; 17-59, and 17-60 was unanimously adopted.

VI(b). Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of approximately 0.36 acres, APN 4444-026-024, Topanga Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Peterson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-52 was unanimously adopted.

VI(c). Consideration of resolution authorizing entering in a contract with the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority for pre-acquisition and acquisition services, Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor east of Colima Road, County of Los Angeles.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, and the Assistant Financial Officer.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-53 was unanimously adopted.

VI(d). Consideration of resolution authorizing contract with Vision y Compromiso for training for the Community Liaison Pilot Project.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Chief of Outreach and Engagement.

On motion of Mr. Peterson, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-54 was unanimously adopted.

VI(f). Consideration of resolution approving the application for grant funds for California Climate Investments Urban Greening program for land acquisition and trail and public access improvements at Elephant Hill.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Chief of Park Development.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-56 was unanimously adopted.

VI(g). Consideration of resolution in opposition to proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent the Upper Los Angeles River, and in support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, authorizing the use of the MRCA name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, City of Los Angeles.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning and the Ms. Beth Dymond, representing Save LA River Open Space.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Peterson.

Comments were mad by Ms. Dymond.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-57 was unanimously adopted.

VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 84 funds for improvements at Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway project.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Project Analyst.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer and the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, the Executive Director, the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning and the Chief of Park Development.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-61 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing: (1) acceptance of an approximately 3-acre conservation easement over a portion of APN 3137-007-020; (2) entering into a management and monitoring agreement, and (3) acceptance of management and monitoring fees, City of Lancaster.

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

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson.

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

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-62 was unanimously adopted.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire APN 2052-013-040 and authorizing acquisition of said parcel, Liberty Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer and the Chairperson.

Comments were made by the Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-63 was unanimously adopted.

X. Consideration of resolution (a) authorizing acceptance of conservation easements over APNs 2813-015-011, 012 and 2813-016-013, approximately 124-acres, and (b) acceptance of easement monitoring funding, Vasquez Canyon, 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. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-64 was unanimously adopted.

XI. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Ballard Mountain parcels and authorize the acquisition of APN 2058-008-023, approximately 40 acres, Lobo Canyon watershed, 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 Mr. Peterson.

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

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 17-65 was unanimously adopted.

XII. Report from the Chief Ranger regarding MRCA Ranger General Order 17-1, concerning cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement Officers during immigration enforcement activities on MRCA owned or managed property.

The Authority received an oral report from the Executive Officer and the Chief Ranger.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer.

Comments were made by the Chief Ranger, the Executive Officer, and the Chief Deputy Executive Officer.

XIII. 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: ten (11). (1) *Malibu-Encinal Homeowners Association v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*, Case No. BC431798; (2) *Morris v. City of Los Angeles, et al.*, Case No. BC448511; (3) *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; (4) *Prop "A" Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al.*, Case No. BS 145771 and related cases; (5) *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; (6) *Denman, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; (7) *Geffen v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; (8) *Sycamore Park Private Community Group, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*; (9) *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al. v. Southern California Edison*; (10) *Compean v. Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conser., et al.*, and (11) *Cruz v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al.*

No closed session was held.

XIV. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on May 3, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston
Executive Officer

George Lange
Chairperson