MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

July 11, 2018

I. Call to order.

The special meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairperson George Lange, at 2:02 p.m., on July 11, 2018, 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: Paul Friedeborn, Jerome C. Daniel, Jim Hasenauer, Vice Chairperson, and George Lange, Chairperson. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Spencer Aldred, Staff Counsel; Sheryl Lewanda, Chief Deputy Financial Officer; Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer of Outreach and Engagement; Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer of Urban Parks; Tim Miller, Deputy Executive Officer of Construction; Ken Nelson, Chief of Fire Division; James Latham, Acting Chief Ranger, and Chris Trumpy, Project Analyst.

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

The following member of the public addressed the Authority:

Mr. Walter Lamb, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

IV. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of June 2, 2018 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 2, 2018 were adopted upon revision.
V. Reports from staff.

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

VI. Consent Calendar:

(a) Consideration of resolution accepting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority warrant disbursements for the period of May 18, 2018 to June 14, 2018.

(b) Consideration of resolution authorizing professional services agreement with the Conejo Recreation and Park District for ongoing Financial Management and Accounting Services.

(c) Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of an approximately 0.131-acre property, APN 5207-024-010, Montecito Heights, City of Los Angeles.

(d) Consideration of resolution ordering levy of special taxes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for open space protection and fire prevention within Community Facilities District No. 1, Los Angeles.

(e) Consideration of resolution ordering levy of special taxes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for open space protection and fire prevention within Community Facilities District No. 2, Los Angeles.

(f) Consideration of resolution ordering levy of special taxes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for wildlife corridor & open space protection and fire prevention within Community Facilities District No. 2016-1, Los Angeles.

(g) Consideration of resolution ordering levy of special taxes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for wildlife corridor & open space protection and fire prevention within Community Facilities District No. 2016-2, Los Angeles.

(h) Consideration of resolution ordering levy of special taxes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 within Community Facilities District No. 2015-1 (Sterling West Hills), Dayton Canyon, City of Los Angeles.
(i) Consideration of ordinance levying special taxes within Community Facilities District 2018-1 (Santa Susana Mountains).

(j) Consideration of resolution authorizing staff to register/vest and purchase properties through www.bid4assets.com for the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(k) Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of mitigation funds to acquire properties in the Los Angeles River, Malibu Creek, Antelope Valley, and Santa Clara River watersheds, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(l) Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire properties in the Santa Monica Mountains coastal zone, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(m) Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of Community Facilities District Numbers 1, 2016-1, and private funds to acquire properties in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains/Hollywood Hills area, City of Los Angeles, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(n) Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from SMM-84-1528 and SMM-84-1648 to acquire properties in Northeast Los Angeles Hilltops areas, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(o) Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from Proposition A to acquire properties in the 5th Supervisorial District of Los Angeles County, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2018B online public auction.

(p) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy on the Proposition 68 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines.

Item VI(b) was removed from the Consent Calendar.
On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 18-97; 18-99; 18-100; 18-101; 18-102; 18-103; 18-104; 18-105; 18-106; 18-107; 18-108; 18-109; 18-110; 18-111, and 18-122 were unanimously adopted.

VI(b). Consideration of resolution authorizing professional services agreement with the Conejo Recreation and Park District for ongoing Financial Management and Accounting Services.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Chief Deputy Financial Officer. 

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer. 

Comments were made by the Chief Deputy Financial Officer. 

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-98 was unanimously adopted upon modification.


The Authority received an oral report by the Deputy Executive Officer of Urban Parks. 

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer and the Chairperson. 

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer of Urban Parks. 

The public hearing for items VIII through XI was opened at 3:19 p.m. 

There being no public comment, the public hearing for items VIII through XI was closed at 3:20 p.m.

VIII. Public Hearing and consideration of resolution adopting Engineer’s Report, confirming the annual levy of maintenance assessment for fiscal year 2018-2019 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles (Attach MRCA Area 1 ER 18). 

The staff reports for items VIII through XI was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning. 

Comments were made by Mr. Hasenauer and Mr. Friedeborn. 

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-113 was unanimously adopted.
IX. Public Hearing and consideration of resolution adopting Engineer’s Report, confirming the annual levy of maintenance assessment for fiscal year 2018-2019 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles (Attach MRCA Area 2 ER 18).

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-114 was unanimously adopted.

X. Public Hearing and consideration of resolution confirming amended assessments and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles (Attach Dist 1 Reapp ER).

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-115 was unanimously adopted.

XI. Public Hearing and consideration of resolution confirming amended assessments and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles (Attach Dist 2 Reapp ER).

On motion of Mr. Friedeborn, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-116 was unanimously adopted.

XII. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding for Phase 3 of the Triangle Ranch acquisition project, APNs 2063-006-023 and a portion of 2063-006-022, Medea Creek, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Chief Staff Counsel.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-117 was unanimously adopted.

XIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing granting utility easements to multiple companies within the boundaries of two existing Devil Canyon bridge easements through APNs 2818-022-902 and 2818-024-900 and acceptance of compensation, Deerlake Highlands, unincorporated Chatsworth area.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.
Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 18-118 was unanimously adopted.

XIV. Consideration of resolution authorizing purchase of equipment and vehicles for vegetation management.

Questions were propounded by the Chairperson and Mr. Friedeborn.

Comments were made by the Chief of Fire Division.

XV. Consideration of a resolution approving and adopting the updated MRCA Salary Schedule.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Chief Deputy Financial Officer.

XVI. 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) Malibu-Encinal Homeowners Association v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BC431798; (2) 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; (3) Prop “A” Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al., Case No. BS 145771 and related cases; (4) 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; (5) Denman, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; (6) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Berggruen Institute et al.; (7) Sycamore Park Private Community Group, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; (8) Fishback v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; (9) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. GSV Sustainability Partners, Inc.; (10) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Sycamore Park Beach and
Tennis Club, et al., and (11) City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al.

Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c): Number of cases - 2.


The Chairperson commenced the closed session at 3:35 p.m. and announced that the following items would be discussed: Prop “A” Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al., Case No. BS 145771 and related cases, and Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.95: conference with legal counsel regarding claim made pursuant to the Government Tort Claims Act. Claimant: Jared William Anderson.

The Chairperson reconvened the open session at 3:52 p.m. and announced that the following items were discussed: Prop “A” Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, et al., Case No. BS 145771 and related cases, and Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.95: conference with legal counsel regarding claim made pursuant to the Government Tort Claims Act. Claimant: Jared William Anderson.

XVII. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on August 1, 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston George Lange
Executive Officer Chairperson