



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

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

September 4, 2019

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 September 4, 2019 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: Dan Paranick; Jerome C. Daniel; Jim Hasenauer, Vice Chairperson, and George Lange, Chairperson. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer, FAICP, Hon; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Basem Mosaad, Deputy Financial Officer; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer of Urban Projects; Tim Miller, Deputy Executive Officer of Construction; James Latham, Acting Chief Ranger; 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.

No members of the public addressed the Authority.

IV. Approval of minutes.

The minutes of August 7, 2019 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of August 7, 2019 were adopted as submitted.

V. Reports from staff.

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

VI. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution accepting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority warrant disbursements for the period of July 19, 2019 to August 15, 2019.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the ability to register/vest and purchase properties at the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector 2019A public auction.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the creation of an Auction Trust Account with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collectors office to purchase parcels at the 2019A public auction.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of mitigation funds, private donation funds, and other agency funds, to acquire properties in the Los Angeles River watershed, coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains, Antelope Valley, and Santa Clara River watershed, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2019A public auction.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the expenditure of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No.1 (Area B) funds to acquire properties in the Beverly Glen watershed, City of Los Angeles, at the Los Angeles County Tax Collector 2019A public auction.**
- (f) **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 2019A public auction.**

- (g) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with Feldman Consulting Inc. for the technical design development of the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, City of Los Angeles.**
- (h) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with SWA Group for the technical design development of the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, City of Los Angeles.**
- (i) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with VS2 Consulting Inc. for the technical design development of the Natural Park at Ramona Gardens, City of Los Angeles.**
- (j) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for Proposition 68 funds for the Maritime Rocks Beach Access Project, City of Malibu.**
- (k) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant augmentation to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for Los Angeles River Community Access planning.**

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 19-132 to 19-142 were unanimously adopted.

VII. Report on the participation rate of disadvantaged businesses in contracts during Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The Authority received an oral report from the Deputy Executive Officer.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Paranick and Hasenauer.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer.

VIII. Consideration of resolution approving MRCA Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

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

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

Comments were made by the Deputy Financial Officer.

On motion of Mr. Paranick, duly seconded, Resolution No. 19-143 was unanimously adopted, upon the request of a more detailed report regarding salary expenditures in comparison to sister agencies.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 68 grant for fire hardening for park infrastructure.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer and the Chair.

Comments were made by the Chief of Fire Division, the Chief Deputy Executive Officer, and the Chief of Construction.

On motion of Mr. Paranick, duly seconded, Resolution No. 19-144 was unanimously adopted.

X. Consideration of resolution awarding a contract to A Plus Tree, Inc. for arborist evaluation and remediation work due to Woolsey Fire damage at Ramirez Canyon Park, City of Malibu.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Paranick.

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

On motion of Mr. Paranick, duly seconded, Resolution No. 19-145 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: five (5). (1) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Berggruen Institute et al.;; (2) Sycamore Park Private Community Group, et al. v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; (3) Fishback v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation

Authority; (4) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. GSV Sustainability Partners, Inc., and (5) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Morrison, et al.

The Chairperson commenced the closed session at 3:56 p.m. and announced that the following item would be discussed: *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Morrison, et al.*

The Chairperson reconvened the open session at 4:02 p.m. and announced that directions were given to staff.

XII. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on October 2, 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston
Executive Officer

George Lange
Chairperson