



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

January 8, 2020

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 2:00 p.m., on January 8, 2020 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: Irma R. Muñoz; Dan Paranick; 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; Sheryl Lewanda; Chief Deputy Financial Officer; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel; Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer of Outreach and Engagement; Walt Young, Deputy Executive Officer of Operations; Tim Miller, Deputy Executive Officer of Construction; Melissa Smith, Chief, Division of Policy and Legislation; Fernando Gomez, Chief Ranger; Ken Nelson, Chief of Fire Division; Brian Baldauf, Chief of Park Development; Sarah Rascon, Urban River Projects Officer; Elena Eger, Special Counsel; Maribelle Franco, Deputy Chief of Developed Resources, Marc Shores, Information Systems Technician, and James Yeramian, Staff Services Manager.

III. Election of Officers.

On motion of Ms. Muñoz, duly seconded, George Lange was unanimously re-elected Chairperson of the Authority.

On motion of Mr. Paranick, duly seconded, Jim Hasenauer was unanimously re-elected Vice Chairperson of the Authority.

IV. 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 December 4, 2019 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of December 4, 2019 were adopted as submitted.

V. Reports from staff.

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

VII. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution accepting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority warrant disbursements for the period of November 15, 2019 to December 12, 2019.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of approximately 0.5 contiguous acres, APNs 2072-031-009 and 2072-031-010, Old Topanga Canyon area of unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution of the governing board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for project planning and design for the Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio G2 Project, City of Los Angeles.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of conservation easement, approximately 0.6 acres, over portions of APN 4382-002-008 (3000 Benedict Canyon Drive) in Benedict Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Choux Choux, Inc. for catering for outdoor camp at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

(f) Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Community Partners for the VerdeXchange 2020.

Items VII(a) and VII(f) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

On motion of Mr. Paranick, duly seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: 20-02; 20-03; 20-04, and 20-05.

VII(a). Consideration of resolution accepting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority warrant disbursements for the period of November 15, 2019 to December 12, 2019.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer of Construction.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 20-01 was unanimously adopted.

VII(f). Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Community Partners for the VerdeXchange 2020.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hasenauer.

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer of Outreach and Engagement.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 20-06 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Presentation on properties closed in 2019.

The Authority received an oral report on this item.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Muñoz; Mr. Paranick; the Chair, and the Executive Officer.

Comments were made by the Information Systems Technician; the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, Chief Staff Counsel, and the Chief of Park Development.

IX. Consideration of resolution: (a) authorizing amending the allowed uses in an approximately 5,791-square-foot portion of a conservation easement in exchange for greater than 40,000-square-feet of new conservation easement

area on APN 521-0-031-140, and (b) accepting payment for expenses, University Village, City of Thousand Oaks.

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

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by Mr. Paranick.

On motion of Mr. Hasenauer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 20-07 was unanimously adopted.

X. 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: six (6). (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.; (5) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Morrison, et al.; and (6) Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Southern California Edison.

Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2): Conference with legal counsel regarding claim made pursuant to the Government Tort Claims Act. Claimants: Williams Alvarez Molineros, Mayra Alvarez Morales, Jhosselin Guajaca and Mariajose Guajaca.

The Chair convened the closed session at 3:55 p.m. and announced that the following item would be discussed: Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2): Conference with legal counsel regarding claim made pursuant to the Government Tort Claims Act. Claimants: Williams Alvarez Molineros, Mayra Alvarez Morales, Jhosselin Guajaca and Mariajose Guajaca.

The Chair reconvened the open session at 4:01 p.m. and announced that instructions were given to staff.

XI. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on February 5, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston
Executive Officer

George Lange
Chairperson