

**MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING  
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)  
June 16, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mejia at 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held at: Hall of Admin., 500 W. Temple Street, 3rd Floor, Room 383, Los Angeles, CA, Gateway Cities COG, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Conf. Room, Paramount, CA 90723 and San Gabriel Valley Water Company, 11142 Garvey Ave., El Monte, CA 91734.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Brian Mejia, Chair (for Supervisor Antonovich)  
Ms. Terri Grant (for Ms. Farber)  
Ms. Connie Sziebl (for Supervisor Knabe)  
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)  
Mr. Dan Arrighi  
Ms. Lacey Johnson (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Janet Chin (for Supervisor Solis)  
Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer  
Dena Williams, Board Secretary  
Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager  
Rob Romanek, Project Manager  
Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager  
Terry Fujimoto, Counsel

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

There were three sets of minutes from May 14, 2015, January 21, 2016 and May 23, 2016.

**Board Member Sziebl moved to have the 5/14/15 minutes approved. Chair Mejia seconded the motion. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstention. Minutes were approved. Board member Uranga moved to have**

the 5/23/16 minutes approved. Chair Mejia seconded the motion. Board voted – 3 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstention. Minutes were approved. Chair Mejia moved to have the 1/21/16 minutes approved. Board member Johnson seconded the motion. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstention. Minutes were approved.

## 5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mejia did not give a report.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

## 6. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Executive Officer discussed that the Leadership Committee of the IRWMP group voted to give authority to the Department of Public Works to prepare a region-wide application in response to the Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program. Mr. Stanley also stated that a Request for Proposal will be submitted for review and comment and it is anticipated that the State will then have coordination meetings with the Greater Funding Area which includes Greater LA, Ventura County and Upper Santa Clara.

Mr. Stanley mentioned the SGRDCA Design Team has completed 90% of Construction Documents for Stage 1 and are in the midst of the permitting process. Mr. Stanley stated that he is engaged in a dialogue with Andy Salas of the Native American Group that has been protesting against the location of the project not the project itself and will be meeting with Mr. Salas to gain more understanding of the Native American history. Mr. Stanley discussed that the Emerald Necklace project is nearing completion and since the last WCA Board meeting, consultants have begun a cost-benefit analysis and comprehensive list of permits required for the 15 projects included in the Phase 1 Implementation Report and a Program EIR is also being prepared.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Gateway Cities & Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan the next advisory committee meeting (most likely a conference call) will be July 19 with subsequent meetings planned for the third Tuesday of every third month (quarterly). Mr. Stanley discussed that for the River Wilderness Park Project WCA staff hosted a site visit on May 23, 2016 with a Grant Review Team from the California River Parkways Grant Program in response to an approx. \$300,000 funding request that staff applied for and it was a visit that went very well and the Grant Review Team did not need any additional information and final recommendation is scheduled for mid-July. Mr. Stanley very quickly mentioned that for this same project WCA staff submitted a grant proposal for \$1.9 million to Cycle 3 of the ATP and had help from Metro transportation with the grant writing.

Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that the San Gabriel Canyon Watershed Ranger Program is occurring again this summer from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. For the San Gabriel River Confluence w/Cattle Canyon Project Mr. Stanley stated a draft Concept Site Plan & Programming Report is currently in production, as well as the preparation of environmental documents for CEQA/NEPA compliance, a final report and recommendation regarding CEQA compliance will subsequently be brought to the WCA and further project development and implementation will then begin in Fall of 2016 with initial funding from the Angeles National Forest.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that for the Parque Dos Rios project the City of South Gate completed installation of the new water line on Imperial Highway to supply irrigation to the project and he will provide updates on the other aspects of the project as it moves forward. Lastly, Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that for the Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space project we are moving forward with the

permitting phase and implementation of the project after much communication with the City of San Dimas and the surrounding community and will keep the board updated.

## **7. EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Mr. Stanley stated that lease revenues reflect the receipt of annual South Gate Billboard for Calendar Years 2014 and 2015 totaling \$71,500. Mr. Stanley stated that WCA continues to work with Coiner Nursery who filed Chapter 12 bankruptcy in January 2016 and that receipt of past due rent will be determined during the Chapter 12 process. Mr. Stanley mentioned that filming revenue is higher than budgeted due to special use fees received from a CBS Television shoot in the canyon that utilized the El Encanto parking lot for crew vehicles. Mr. Stanley stated that in the expenses section fiscal services provided by the County Auditor-Controller are above midyear projections, but the Authority does not expect to exceed the FY 15/16's agreed budgeted value of \$53,000. Board member Velasquez asked if Coiner Nursery was updated and current. Mr. Stanley answered that they are paid up through May with the recent filing of Chapter 12. Mr. Velasquez also asked in terms of the grant reimbursements, what was the revenue received. Ms. Garcia answered and said as of March 2016 it was \$272,500. There were no further questions.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **8. FUND BALANCE REPORT**

Chair Mejia requested Item 8 be moved back to Executive Officer's Report section.

### **9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A MODIFICATION TO SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENT #2 (1502SGC-02) TO THE SAN GABRIEL CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT MASTER AGREEMENT.**

### **10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ON-CALL CONSULTANT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT REGION.**

### **11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE AZUSA FOOTHILLS ACQUISITION PROJECT.**

**Chair Mejia moved to approve the resolutions for Items 8 through 11. Board member Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.**

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE FY 14/15 WCA FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT AND RELATED FINDINGS.**

Fiscal Manager, Salian Garcia introduced Kathleen Yang and Jackie Guevara from the County Auditor-Controller's office to present this item. Ms. Guevara stated that the firm who conducted the audit gave the authority (WCA) a clean opinion which means that the Authority complies under the Government Auditing Standards and the management report indicates that all prior year recommendations have been implemented and that there are no

findings for the year just audited. Overall, the Authority's net position in FY 2014/2015 increased by \$1.29 million due to acquisition of land and related capital assets operating revenues decreased by \$.80 million to \$2.04 million due to a decrease in grant funding and overall operating expenses increased by \$.49 million due to professional services. Board member Sziebl asked if the expenses for the professional services were from the lawsuit the authority had and Ms. Guevara stated yes it was. There were no further questions.

**Board Member Arrighi moved to approve the resolution for item 12. Board Member Johnson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.**

**13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017.**

Fiscal Manager, Salian Garcia stated that there should be a separate presentation along with the staff report and on page six of the presentation the Executive Officer gives a message thanking our supporters and partners for continuing to support us and advancing our mission into the new year. Ms. Garcia mentioned the budget includes four expenditure components which are Administrative, Personnel, Operations, Grants and Special Projects with revenue totaling \$6,438,261 for the next coming year and expenditures totaling \$6,436, 748. Ms. Garcia stated that on page eight and nine the WCA was awarded \$5.6 million in grants & contracts which includes \$650,000 from RMC for the (GREEN) project, \$997,000 from LA County Regional Park & Open Space District (Prop A) for the River Wilderness Park Entry project. Ms. Garcia stated that on page eleven there are program highlights and opportunities what will be occurring this upcoming fiscal year which include SGRDC, Duck Farm River Park, Cattle Canyon Oaks Picnic Area, Santa Fe Dam art installation and the River Wilderness Park are all scheduled to begin construction activities, there is a Mt. Baldy Anniversary Celebration for later this year and the Parque dos Rios project received ACOE approval for the overlook modification and is expected to be completed by or near the end of the next fiscal year. Ms. Garcia moved on to page twenty and stated that a majority of the Authority's net assets are the result of an increase in the acquisitions of property and other capitalized construction in progress (CIP), buildings & improvements. Ms. Garcia mentioned that the WCA anticipates a revenue of \$6,131,198 from grants and special projects from a variety of agencies including the RMC, County of Los Angeles and other local city and non-profit agencies and a myriad of programs from which those project are funded. Ms. Garcia stated that pages twenty-five and on go into further detail regarding our personnel expenditures and continued benefits, page twenty-seven gives an analysis of historic personnel costs and says since WCA became an employer, WCA continues to be under budget due to periodic monitoring of personnel expenses and ensuring we are receiving competitive benefits while maintaining sustainability.

Ms. Garcia moved on to page twenty-nine and mentioned that she had explained many of the points for the general operational expenditures at the last board meeting and just pointed out that for FY 15/16 insurance policies were higher than budgeted due to industry increases and the unexpected elimination of a government discount. Chair Mejia asked to explain bullet number five on page twenty-nine and Ms. Garcia stated that a small section of the acquired Mt. Baldy property is in the San Bernardino County which is subject to a \$400 a year taxation with a 2% increase each year and we are not exempt like we are with Los Angeles County. When asked if that answered Chair Mejia's question, he said yes and no, but that's ok. Terry

Fujimoto stated the reason we are not exempt from taxation is because neither agency is located in the San Bernardino County so therefore, we are taxed because of this reason. Chair Mejia understood with this explanation. Board Member Sziebl asked how many employees were there for the FY 2016 because the total personnel expense was \$361,000 and went up to \$515,000, is that because more employees were hired? Ms. Sziebl also asked if there was only a \$5000 increase to the budget. Ms. Sziebl asked if the Property Management expenses were going to be the same increase as the Building Maintenance and Repair under the general operations and also the Information Technology is increasing due to having more employees more technology is required? Ms. Garcia answered yes. There were no further questions.

**Board Member Sziebl moved to approve the resolution for item 13. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.**

- 14. CONSIDERATION OF 1) A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND ADOPT A PROGRAMMATIC MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE CANYON INN SUPPLEMENT TO THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK MASTER PLAN; AND, 2) A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

Project Manager Rob Romanek gave a thorough synopsis and overview of the Canyon Inn and River Wilderness Park Master Plan Entry Improvements Project highlighting the improvements along Highway 39 and the future projects related to this project.

**Board Member Arrighi moved to approve the resolution for Item 14A. Board Member Johnson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions. Board Member Arrighi moved to approve the resolution for Item 14B. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.**

- 15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on July 21, 2016.

- 23. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mejia at approximately 2:41 pm.

X

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Brian Mejia  
Chair

X

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Dena Williams  
Board Secretary