

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
September 15, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mejia at 1:32 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center.

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)
Ms. Janet Chin, Vice Chair (for Supervisor Solis)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Mr. Dan Arrighi (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
Roxana Marashi, Project Manager
Joe Gonzalez, Project Manager
Terry Fujimoto, Counsel

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There were one set of minutes from July 21, 2016.

Vice Chair Chin moved to have the minutes approved. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions. Minutes were approved.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mejia did not give a report.

6. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH, LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT.**7. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER DON KNABE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT.****8. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBER CONNIE SZIEBL, FIELD DEPUTY FOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR DON KNABE.****9. RECOGNITION OF GENERAL COUNCIL TERRY FUJIMOTO, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.****EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS****10. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT**

The Executive Officer stated that he would not go into detail concerning the Parks Needs Assessment but that there is a table in the staff report showing a list of projects the WCA reported after an internal assessment was conducted by the WCA. He also stated that parks funding measure will be on the November 8th ballot and looking forward to positive results from the voters throughout the county. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the San Gabriel Discovery Center Authority has met the Supplemental Environmental Project requirements and has obtained approval from the Water Boards to proceed with the project. He also mentioned that a license agreement with LA County Open Space District is anticipated to be executed this month and with the execution of the agreement, the release of Prop A funds can begin. Mr. Stanley stated that the Collaborative group for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument has prepared a Management Plan Amendment and is currently available for public review. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the plan is a three year plan and public engagement opportunities for the Monument Plan are being offered throughout September and October with the comment period running through October 17, 2016. Mr. Stanley stated that for the Emerald Necklace project an administrative draft of a Program EIR for the 15 phase 1 projects has been delivered by the consultants and a public review of the Program EIR is expected to be released in early October with the review period running through November. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the San Gabriel Canyon Watershed Ranger Program has some remaining funds that will allow the program to continue for approximately two more program weekends and staff is presently discussing opportunity to enhance or combine with the ANF Field Ranger for the 2017 Summer Season. Mr. Stanley stated that for the Parque dos Rios project the design contract with North East Trees has been extended to allow time necessary to complete pick-up of submittal comments for the drawings of the project and staff has been working with the ACOE to obtain an extension of the 408 permit. Mr. Stanley stated that for the Walnut Creek Habitat project since the approval of the West Phase back in May, Staff has begun working with the City Staff to update the project schedule and budget as well as to identify and coordinate critical task to begin project-level planning, permitting and implementation.

11. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Mr. Stanley stated that in the report there are two budgets we are looking at. Mr. Stanley mentioned that for FY 15/16 budget, the revenue still due to the Authority is from the Duck Farm tenant who filed

for Chapter 12 bankruptcy in January 2016 and through the courts the past due balance will be paid over three years in monthly installments of \$1,389.33 which will commence today, September 15, 2016. Mr. Stanley mentioned we have not yet been invoiced for Ranger Services but that Staff expects the outstanding expenditure will be at or below the budgeted amount of \$92,000 with remaining budgeted balance of \$47,223. Mr. Stanley stated that the operational lease revenues are currently on target for the 16/17 fiscal year including the lease revenue from the commercial tenant from the Duck Farm. Revenues from Grant and Special Projects have been minimal but that will all change once staff receives payment from several grants and professional services contracts. Mr. Stanley mentioned that Property Management expenditures are at 31% of the budgeted levels which is higher than expected at this point of the current fiscal year due to increased management activities but that will balance out as we go through the balance of this fiscal year. No questions were asked.

12. FUND BALANCE REPORT

Mr. Stanley stated that you have the exhibits for the account management mostly the projects that are being managed by the authority as the cash comes in and out of each account. There were no questions from the board. Received and filed by Chair Mejia.

REGULAR CALENDAR

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH BLUEGREEN CONSULTING FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Rob stated that this item is seeking to extend the performance period up to twelve months and increasing the not-to-exceed contract value to \$600,000. Rob also stated that this project is to be completed over three phases which includes a comprehensive site assessment, planning and design process; subsequent implementation of site improvements, including interpretive and directional signage and access improvements; development and implementation of an interpretive outreach program; and a study on the effectiveness of the interpretive outreach program. Rob went on to discuss that since the inception of this project there has been an Existing Condition Report made, three conceptual design options were then prepared and finalized and WCA and ANF Staff have evaluated and commented on these options. Since then, an administrative final concept site plan was submitted and a final programming report is currently under development. Rob stated that WCA and ANF Staff have evaluated the proposed action within the final conceptual plan and identified that potentially significant impacts could occur to the Santa Ana Sucker and the species designated as Critical Habitat. Based on the potential significant impacts it has been mutually determined by ANF and WCA Staff that an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) must be prepared as well as additional technical reports need to be done to support the environmental analysis. Rob stated that the WCA staff continues to negotiate toward a refined scope of work with a reduced budget in an amount not to exceed \$319,000 and coordination is also ongoing with ANF as opportunities are explored to complete a portion of the services with in-house Forest Service specialists and negotiations should be completed within two weeks.

Board Member Sziebl moved to approve the resolution for Item 13. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CAL POLY POMONA FOUNDATION, TO SECURE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF DR. WEIMIN LI, TO PERFORM GEOSPATIAL ANALYSES CONSULTATION FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN GREENING MASTER PLAN.

Johnathan stated that staff is currently planning analysis methods, and recognizes that the intellectual property, experience and resources Dr. Weimin Li possesses present significant assets for not only the Gateway Greening Plan, but in developing original data and making powerful tools available for partners, agencies and future projects in the region. Johnathan also stated that the Gateway Greening Plan seeks to expand, develop and enhance greenways, parks, open space and green infrastructure both along our river corridors and throughout our urban communities. Johnathan mentioned that staff recommends approval to award a contract for the proposal for services for Phase 1 to be conducted through September 1, 2017 for an estimated value of \$13,800 and based on the outcomes of Phase 1 the option to continue services for Phase 2 will be through January 1, 2018 with a 10% owner-held contingency for a total not-to-exceed value of \$30,360 and is within the budgetary limit and is fully funded by a Prop 84 Urban Greening Planning Grant through the California Natural Resources Agency. Board Member Sziebl asked why we might or might not continue with the services. Johnathan answered by saying that this project is experimental for the time being and based on how high the resolution is of the topography they will determine whether to continue services or not. Vice Chair Chin asked about the 10% contingency if it applies to both of the phases and Johnathan answered by saying that both phases are \$13,800 and the 10% from the \$30,360 is being held. Chair Mejia asked when the project is scheduled to be completed. Johnathan answered by saying that for the first phase of the project they are anticipating the work will be completed by late spring, early summer and the second phase it is anticipated the work will be completed by late winter. Board Member Uranga asked if staff would be able to keep track of the work or would there be benchmarks along the way. Johnathan answered that there are definitely deliverables along the way and the analyses should be completed during the first phase and we definitely have our milestones planned out. Board Member Sziebl asked how exactly would this type of work be done, by planes, drones. Johnathan answered by saying that small planes are used for this type of work and pictures are taken from the air and will be using the data in digital format.

Chair Mejia moved to approve the resolution for Item 14. Vice Chair Chin seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO JOSE GARDEA TO PROVIDE POLICY CONSULTATION SERVICES.

Mr. Stanley stated that in support of the GREEN project that Johnathan was just referring to, WCA received funding through the RMC to provide planning and implementation support services for greening projects and initiatives across the joint RMC/WCA territory through the GREEN project. Mr. Stanley explained that the scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information and to catalyze investments and positive change. Mr. Stanley also explained that Mr. Gardea will have a number of tasks to do for the WCA that are listed in Exhibit A which include stakeholder development and a stewardship building plan, strategy development of long-term mechanisms for resource allocations in the areas of planning, implementation, operations and maintenance of Greening projects for open spaces, greenway development sites, contingency and additional services as needed. Mr. Stanley stated that this agreement with Mr. Gardea will set a professional services contract to provide Policy Consultation

Services in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for a 12-month period. Board Member Sziebl asked if we would attack each task one by one or would they be concurrent. Mr. Stanley answered by saying that due to working with several agencies the tasks would have concurrent activities. There were no further questions.

Board Member Sziebl moved to approve the resolution for Item 15. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.

16. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2016.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mejia at approximately 2:29 pm.

X

Brian Mejia
Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary