

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
September 21, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Chin at 1:33 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Keith Lilley (for Mr. Pestrella)
Ms. Janet Chin, Chair (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Ms. Debra Mendelsohn (for Supervisor Barger)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager
Johnathan Perisho, Project Manager
Roxana Marashi, Project Manager
Joe Gonzalez, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There were one set of minutes from June 26, 2017.

Board member Uranga motioned to approve the minutes. Board member Chico seconded the

motion. Minutes were approved.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

7. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Executive Officer stated that SB5 is from Senator De Leon for the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of paying costs associated with operating and maintaining certain park projects funded by the program which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,100,000,000.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that AB1558 is from Assemblywoman Garcia's office and this bill is on the governor's desk for signature.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that SB693 is from Senator Mendoza and is for the Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District and is also on the Governor's desk for signature.

Mr. Stanley stated that SB714 is from Senator Newman and is for an extension of the Coastal Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants in the West Coyote Hills area.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB466 is from Assemblyman Bocanegra and is for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group which would mimic the bill that has the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group that is already established.

Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that AB1235 and SB263 are both 2 year bills. The AB1235 bill would restore, preserve and enhance specified lands in the Santa Ana River region and SB263 bill would develop and implement neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental and health benefits to disadvantaged communities, as defined.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Secretary of Interior recommended that the San Gabriel National Monument stay the size that it is and we will wait to see what the President decides to do.

Mr. Stanley discussed that WCA is closely working with Department of Public Works (DPW) on the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network project along with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments which would begin the transformation of County flood control channels, washes and creeks in the San Gabriel Valley into bike able, walkable and pedestrian-friendly networks.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm Project received permit plan check approvals from the county and are awaiting the last remaining County plan check approval before construction can begin. He also mentioned that a Labor Compliance Program will be presented to the Board today for consideration later in the meeting and will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that there was a Duck Farm Community Planting Event back in June and the photos were attached to the board report for viewing and that the plants are currently being maintained and are growing nicely as a first step in revegetating the native plants on the site after several years of drought.

Mr. Stanley acknowledged the invitation for the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve dedication ceremony and stated that everyone is invited.

Lastly, Mr. Stanley mentioned that WCA is working closely with the Forest Service, BlueGreen Consultants and ESA on finalizing the Draft environmental technical assessment and report before public release and that there are two planned outreach meetings in November and there may also be an on-site outreach event along the East Fork on October 28th, but this is still pending coordination with Forest Service.

8. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Salian Garcia stated that the FY 2016/2017 budget with updated balances was attached as Exhibit A for viewing and the FY 2017/2018 budget with balances as of August 31, 2017 was attached as Exhibit B. Ms. Garcia also stated that there is only one outstanding item on the Expenditure Report for FY 2016/2017 which was for the Ranger Services due to not being invoiced for the last quarter as of yet. Ms. Garcia gave a brief synopsis of the Revenues received and Expenditures made and no questions were asked from the Board.

9. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRAM UPDATE – PUBLIC RELATIONS, MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Johnathan Perisho gave a presentation and an update on the strategic planning for the authority and what the next steps are.

CONSENT CALENDAR

10. FUND BALANCE REPORT

11. CONSIDERATION TO UPDATE THE WCA BILLABLE RATES FOR FY17/18.

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR A PILOT OF COCOON STRATEGY FOR PLANTING AT WALNUT CREEK.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AUGMENTATION FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK FRONT ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ROUNDABOUT AND ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve these items. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE WCA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND RELATED POLICIES.

Salian Garcia stated that it was necessary to amend the WCA employee handbook with modifications to Section 4.3 New Employee Benefits and Performance Evaluation, Section 6.0

Vehicle Use, Section 6.2 General Rules to include vaping as an impermissible conduct in nonsmoking areas, Section 10.2 Distribution to include the Fiscal Manager as another employee who may distribute and keep in custody payroll checks, Section 11.2 Holidays, Section 11.6 Voluntary Annual Leave Program to add language stating the PTO balance for exempt employees will be reduced for partial day absences should the employee work four hours or less on a normal work day.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH LONG BEACH CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER BIKE TRAIL GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (WCA16501).

Johnathan Perisho stated that a contract amendment with the Long Beach Conservation Corps is needed in the amount of \$10,500 not to exceed \$30,500 to move forward with the installation of the sculpture for the San Gabriel River Bike Trail Gateway Enhancement Project.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPERATIONAL STATEMENT FOR RIVER WILDERNESS PARK FOR CITY OF AZUSA CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION.

Johnathan Perisho stated that an Operational Statement is required as part of the permit and approval process for the City of Azusa which will essentially itemize all improvements and operational elements planned for the completed park. Mr. Perisho also mentioned that this action has been planned and budgeted through a grant from the RMC for the River Wilderness Park Entry (RMC14001) and is necessary to secure permit approvals for implementation of ongoing applications for funds.

Board member Chico questioned about the park being open until sometimes 2am and Johnathan explained that there would be times where there would potentially be concerts or overnight camping if the park were to stay open that late. Ms. Chico also suggested going on a tour so that the board could familiarize themselves of the projects.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE RIVER WILDERNESS PARK PROJECT.

Johnathan Perisho stated that the funds being requested would not only fund educational amenities critical for the park operation but would also leverage RMC funds currently allocated for the special use area to provide a project ready for construction.

Mr. Perisho mentioned that this grant application is requesting \$463,196 in Proposition 40 funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation and would leverage Proposition 1 funds from the RMC for a value of up to \$1,560. Mr. Stanley corrected the amount to \$1,560,000 and not \$1,560.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION MASTERPLAN PROJECT.

Debbie Enos stated that for this item it is being requested that the Board authorize an application for grant funding from RMC and support from the Trust for Public Land for a Master Plan that will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve critical habitat and open space, improve watershed health and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities. Ms. Enos also stated that the pending amount of the grant of \$250,000 would be expended through Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

Chair Chin stated that this was a very valuable plan but had concerns about staff capacity. Ms. Enos stated that this was just the tip of the Master Plan and that a broader plan would be developed with larger grant amounts being requested. Mr. Stanley added that he wants the authority to step back to strategically look at the entire foothills to see how the authority wants to move forward. Board Member Chico asked if the \$250,000 was for the initial study and to establish the master plan. Mr. Stanley answered that was correct.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

19. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) ACCEPT CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITHIN THE PUENTE HILLS TOTALING 11.56 ACRES WITHIN A PORTION OF ASSESSOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 8291-003-901; AND, 2) ACCEPT A MONITORING FUND ENDOWMENT MANAGED BY THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION.

Debbie Enos stated that this action would accept a new conservation easement and monitoring endowment over 11.56 acres of coastal sage scrub in the Puente Hills Preserve as off-site restoration required as mitigation for impacts to CSS habitat associated with four proposed projects at the Olinda Alpha Landfill in Brea, California.

Ms. Enos also mentioned that Orange County Waste & Recycling will be financing the CSS habitat restoration by depositing \$41,500 with the San Diego Foundation and long-term management to be carried out by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority and the authority is just waiting for the authorization from Orange County and The San Diego Foundation will manage the fund, issue earnings reports and will make future annual distributions to the CE holder of record to fund the monitoring and reporting requirement associated with acceptance of the Conservation Easements.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

- 20. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) APPROVE AN ENGAGEMENT AND FEE AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW OFFICE OF SIMA SALEK TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO COVER SERVICES RENDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LABOR COMPLIANCE PROGRAM; AND 2) ESTABLISH A LABOR COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.**

Joseph Gonzalez stated that one state statute requires an Agency to have an approved Labor Compliance Program that is funded by Proposition 84 and since the Duck Farm Riverfront Park is scheduled to go into construction in 2018 that is using Prop 84 funding, the WCA is required to establish a LCP.

Mr. Gonzalez also stated that there are three steps to implement Labor Code and the first step is the adoption by the governing body of the WCA to establish and implement a state-approved LCP, second step is submitting evidence in the application that the Agency has the capacity and can operate an effective LCP with skilled staff and the third step is obtaining competent legal support.

Mr. Gonzalez further stated that WCA requested and received three preliminary proposals from firms offering LCP implementation services and that staff recommends the governing board of the WCA approve an engagement and fee agreement with the Law Office of Sima Salek to provide legal counsel and establish a Labor Compliance Program.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve both resolutions. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

- 21. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OR DESIGNEE TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE OAKS PICNIC AREA STAIRWAY MAINTENANCE PROJECT.**

Joseph Gonzalez stated that this project seeks to address visitor management issues at the Oaks Picnic Area to where it will provide an Outdoor Recreation Access Route, the planting of native species to control erosion, provide habitat, discourage river access via informal routes and will replace damaged and/or missing interpretive signage that conveys information about ecological and cultural interests to visitors as they access the River.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the project components would be constructed in three phases over an estimated 3-month period, with the start date contingent upon funding being secured and approvals being received by November 2017 which would be provided by the Resource Legacy Fund and the National Forest Foundation with a completion date of February 28, 2018. Mr. Gonzalez further stated that the cost of this project would be \$310,000 and WCA has secured \$84,114 directly from The Resources Legacy Fund and \$152,000 from the National Forest Foundation.

Board Member Chico asked if there was a standard list of criteria for the consultants within our contracts. Ms. Enos answered that all contractors and consultants are required to have certain licenses depending on the requirements of the project.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

22. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR OR DESIGNEE TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE PARQUE DOS RIOS PROJECT.

Debbie Enos stated that a construction contract with a local youth conservation corps in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 was needed for the implementation of the Parque Dos Rios project. Ms. Enos further stated that due to the unique nature of working with at-risk youth corps and to ensure the best quality project, staff recommends contracting with LBCC to partner with the original planning team, North East Trees.

Board Member Uranga asked what would happen if the contractors did not obtain the required licenses and Mr. Stanley answered by saying it would delay the project. Mr. Uranga expressed concern if that would have an impact on the funding and Mr. Stanley answered by saying that it would not impact the grant funding from the County.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

23. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 1:30 pm.

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chin at approximately 3:05 pm.

X

M. Janet Chin
Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary