

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
January 18, 2018**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Chin at 1:35 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Armond Ghazarian (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
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 September 21, 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, authored by Senator Kevin DeLeon, will be on the June ballot and would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,100,000,000 with \$767 million going towards State Conservancies to help with the operating and maintaining certain park projects.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1558, authored by Cristina Garcia, is the Lower Los Angeles River River Ranger Program led by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the RMC to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

Mr. Stanley stated that SB693, authored by Senator Mendoza, would specifically authorize the establishment of the Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District and that this bill would authorize specified city councils and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to appoint the initial board of directors of the district.

Mr. Stanley stated that SB714, authored by Senator Newman, would establish the West Coyote Hills Conservancy Program has been tabled for now along with AB1235 which is for the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program has also been tabled.

Mr. Stanley stated that the RMC has been approached by the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative in providing funding to continue facilitation of meetings. The Collaborative is seeking an additional \$19,420 and RMC will review the request and make a recommendation to the Governing Board at its next meeting in March.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that LA County's Stormwater Management staff will submit to LA County Board of Supervisors within or before March a resolution for consideration to contract with WCA over a five year period for professional services to develop and implement a plan for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the San Gabriel Discovery Center Authority a plan check approval for grading permit and license is dependent on obtaining Army Corps of Engineers approval and that a meeting with the ACOE took place on October 17, 2017. Mr. Stanley further stated that a second meeting with ACOE took place on December 7, 2017 where SGRDCA and LA County Parks was notified that the ACOE dam modification study takes precedence over all projects within the impact area. Mr. Stanley also stated that the board has had conversations as to whether they want to continue with Phase II of the project or to dissolve the authority after Phase I is completed.

Mr. Stanley stated that in the packet were many projects and he would provide any updates if the board would like. Mr. Stanley did mention that for the Cattle Canyon Project the Draft EIS/EIR was publicly released for comment on November 9, 2017 for a 45 day comment period which ended on December 26, 2017, two public meetings were held and both meetings were well attended, each with over 50 attendees and there were roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that there was going to be an all-state conservancy's conference on April 25,

2017 through April 27, 2017 hosted by RMC. Mr. Stanley introduced the new Project Manager, Alex Linz, and also mentioned that Roxana would be leaving the WCA to relocate to San Diego.

8. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Salian Garcia stated that the FY 2017/2018 budget with updated balances was attached as Exhibit A for viewing and the statement of Receipts and Disbursements for quarters ending September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2017 have not been received but will be provided at the next board meeting. 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

Mr. Stanley stated that WCA staff is meeting with various agencies to discuss the strategic plan. Board member Chico stated that there was supposed to be a meeting today, but that Marybeth communicated that the meeting needed to be postponed due to scheduling conflicts with the Supervisor. Mr. Stanley told Ms. Chico that he would help with getting a meeting scheduled.

CONSENT CALENDAR

10. FUND BALANCE REPORT

11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE BILLABLE RATES FOR FY2017/2018.

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE WCA EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SECTION 11.2 HOLIDAYS POLICY.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY A CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR THE RIO HONDO TRAILHEAD ACQUISITION PROJECT.

Vice Chair Arrighi 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 ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH LARRY E. SMITH, ATLAS GREEN WORKS, TO IMPLEMENT WCA PROJECTS.

Mr. Stanley stated that WCA is looking to bring on Larry E. Smith for some project work. Mr. Stanley also stated that services to be rendered will support what are often complex development and implementation Public Park and open space projects that would benefit greatly from a senior level consultant and that the consultant work would be paid based on the approved fee schedule but not to exceed the amount of \$88,844.

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

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE

AND ENTER INTO CONSULTING CONTRACTS FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS GREENING MASTER PLAN.

Alex Linz that WCA staff is evaluating proposals that were received and anticipates expending \$15,000 to \$20,000 on up to three or four contracts, however it is possible that \$60,000 will be committed to a single contractor with the capacity to accomplish the project scope. Mr. Linz further stated that the contracts will be funded from the Strategic Growth Council's Proposition 84 and is not to exceed a cumulative value of \$60,000.

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 AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A WEB DEVELOPER CONSULTING CONTRACT FOR THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS GREENING MASTER PLAN.

Alex Linz stated that the WCA is developing an open database web portal to host the Gateway Cities Master Plan and Greening Toolkit which is being funded through a Strategic Growth Council grant for the Gateway Cities and Rivers Greening Master Plan and a RMC grant for the GREEN Project.

Mr. Linz also stated that a draft website was developed by a web developer boot camp and WCA staff now required the professional services of a web developer to carry on the development of the website. Mr. Linz mentioned that a request for qualifications and proposal was released on January 9, 2018 and when a qualified web developer is chosen, the contract will be in effect until September 2018 with a professional service fee not to exceed \$30,000.

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 AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO BLUEGREEN CONSULTING FOR CRYSTAL LAKE AND SAN GABRIEL CANYON MASTER PLAN PROJECT.

Roxana Witters stated that the United States Forest Service has partnered with the WCA to plan recreational improvements and ecological restoration opportunities with the San Gabriel Canyon which includes the historic Crystal Lake Recreation area.

Ms. Witters also stated that the WCA released a request for proposals on August 10, 2017 to provide consulting services to substantially support the production of a development plan for Crystal Lake Recreation Area and a conceptual recreation master plan for the San Gabriel Canyon portion of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Ms. Witters stated that the WCA received two proposals, staff has evaluated the proposals and BlueGreen Consultants was unanimously determined by the interagency review team as offering the highest benefit to value to the WCA and its partners in providing the requested

services therefore it is recommended that BlueGreen be awarded the consultant contract to provide Planning and Design Services for the Crystal Lake Recreation Area and San Gabriel Canyon Master Plan for an amount not to exceed \$382,985.

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

18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Vice Chair Arrighi stated that he would not be available for the next meeting.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chin at approximately 2:22 pm.

X

M. Janet Chin
Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary