

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
March 21, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Member Arrighi at approximately 1:38 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Dan Arrighi (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)
Ms. Sandra Maravilla (for Supervisor Barger)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Lacey Johnson (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mr. Pestrella)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Salian Garcia, RMC Staff Services Manager
Nicole Law, Fiscal Analyst
Michelle Tarian, Project Manager
Alex Linz, Project Manager
Sally Gee, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Maravilla, representing Supervisor Barger, was sworn into office.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes were from January 17, 2019 meeting.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve minutes. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board members voted. There were 4 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

This item was tabled.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

9. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr Stanley stated that he would be brief with the legislative report and would review some of the bills that have been brought back from the previous Governor and are now being re-introduced to the new Governor and his administration.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB968 was introduced by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and this bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists. Mr. Stanley stated that WCA will continue to monitor this bill.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1549 was introduced by Assemblymember O'Donnell and this bill would state the intent of the legislature to address the condition of wildlife on Catalina which is also a part of the RMC expansion plan.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that if the board members would like any information on any of the other bills he would be more than happy to discuss them.

Mr. Stanley stated that there are many things happening at the Duck Farm. He stated that staff opened the future entry park to the community to announce and answer questions related to the park and the pending construction activities and there was a groundbreaking event that took place today with many board members in attendance.

Mr. Stanley stated that the meetings for the Emerald Necklace project have picked up again with the staff from the Supervisor Solis's office, various Los Angeles County Offices, non-profit agencies and staff from the RMC and WCA. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the plans have been completed and the agencies are looking for funding to complete construction of the project and the meetings will happen every other month.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Roberts Canyon Acquisition is located adjacent to WCA's River Wilderness Park which surrounds the single-family residential development known as the Mountain Cove Community. Mr. Stanley stated that WCA staff is engaged in an analysis of the property to determine the natural resources benefit to the Authority or like agencies, the early results of the analysis indicate

the property is at very low risk of development as it has no public ingress or egress and is very steep.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that staff will confer with legal council and then issue a report of due diligence material collected and will bring this matter back to the board whether there is a recommendation to accept or to refuse the donation.

Mr. Stanley stated that staff prepared and provided an update for the Parque Dos Rios project to The Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Implementation Advisory Group on February 20, 2019 and WCA will continue to attend the meetings.

Mr. Stanley stated that on page 14 of the report there were pictures of the Eagle Scout project that was done up at the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve. Mr. Stanley stated that 32 volunteers installed a new kiosk and a permanent setting of the Dedication sign at the site.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the River Wilderness Park staff is working with the City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design team to restart and complete the design packages for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park. Mr. Stanley stated that there is one more opportunity to be chosen through SCAG for funding of the roundabout project but the outlook is not promising at this stage for funding to be awarded for this work. Mr. Stanley mentioned that staff will prepare Prop 68 grant applications and will pursue other grant opportunities for which the project can be competitive.

Mr. Stanley stated that the River Ranger Program Implementation Project is in its second phase and the final Stakeholder meeting #6 was held on February 27th. Mr. Stanley stated that this meeting key components of the River Ranger draft report were introduced to the stakeholders and the next steps to complete the plan include completing draft layout and design and final draft reviews by program staff and stakeholders and a final report will be submitted to legislature by March 30, 2019.

10. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nicole Law stated that the FY 2018/2019 budget with balances as of January 31, 2019 was attached as Exhibit A for view and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the quarters ending September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2018 were attached as Exhibit B.

Ms. Law gave a brief synopsis of the revenues received and expenditures made. There were no questions from the board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

11. FUND BALANCE REPORT

12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR WEED ABATEMENT SERVICES.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve items 11 through 13. Board Member Maravilla seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR**14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE FY 17/18 WCA FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT AND RELATED FINDINGS.**

Nicole Law stated that the recommendation would be that the Governing Board to receive and file the FY 17/18 WCA Financial Compliance Audit and related findings.

Ms. Law introduced Rachele Anema from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller's office to present the audit findings.

Ms. Anema referred to pages 1, 2 and 3 of the Management Report and stated that this Report was the Auditor's opinion letter and that the WCA received a clean opinion.

Ms. Anema referred to page 2, first paragraph, stating that the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as of June 30, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Ms. Anema also stated that these reports should have an unmodified clean opinion like this one.

Ms. Anema suggested that the governing board read pages 5 and 6 of the Management's Discussion and Analysis in Exhibit B and referred to the Capital Assets as of June 30, 2018 consisted of \$19.78 million in land, \$701,000 in construction in progress, \$1.85 million in buildings, \$2.27 million in improvements and accumulated depreciation of \$2.09 million and \$86,700 in construction costs.

There were no questions from the board.

Board Member Uranga motioned to receive and file this item. Board Member Maravilla seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH HOUSTON MAGNANI AND ASSOCIATES FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

Mr. Stanley stated that staff is seeking approval of a Professional Services Contract for Funding Opportunities and related activities in the amount not to exceed \$37,300 on an annual basis.

Mr. Stanley also stated that the scope of services would include, but not limited to, a development of programmatic descriptions and proposed allocations for projects consistent with WCA's mission, the solicitation of legislative support and advocacy for these programs and funding allocations, the tracking of legislative actions, monthly reporting of key legislative bills related to a variety of natural resource topics that may affect the WCA and serve as liaison between the California legislature and the WCA and coordinate necessary communications including meetings, conferences, telephone calls and related communication.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that the agreement would be for two years with an option to extend the contract up to two additional one-year periods contingent upon acceptable performance of services per the WCA Executive Officer or authorized representative. He also mentioned that this contract will be funded from Administrative Revenues in the amount not to exceed \$37,300 for each Fiscal Year 2019/20 and 2020/21.

There were no questions from the board.

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

16. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) APPROVE AN APPLICATION TO THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR A GRANT TO FUND THE LOS ANGELES RIVER FLOW STUDY PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000; AND, 2) IF AWARDED, ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY; AND, 3) AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT (SCCWRP) TO PERFORM THE LOS ANGELES RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSIS.**

Bryan Moller stated that there are three actions on this item due to each action being contingent to one another. He also stated that the State Water Board partnered with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) for a science-based study assessing flow needs of the Los Angeles River known as the Los Angeles River Flows Study in which some areas of the scope are not fully funded.

Mr. Moller stated that due to funding issues the RMC and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy engaged each other on how to supplement the flows study to included analysis of existing and planned recreation and habitat resources for the Lower and Upper Los Angeles River.

Mr. Moller mentioned that WCA and MRCA will jointly pursue funding through Proposition 1 to split the costs evenly for the flows study supplemental analysis.

Board Member Uranga questioned why there were six activities on Exhibit A and on Exhibit B why there was only activity seven. Mr. Moller answered that Exhibit A was showing what was originally funded by the State Water Board and activity seven was added to show what the supplemental analysis would fund.

There were no further questions from the board.

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

17. **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN BUILD FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CENTER PROJECT AT THE DUCK FARM.**

Jeremy Munns gave a presentation to the board to give a background of the San Gabriel River Center Project at the Duck Farm. Mr. Munns stated that the project is in two parts. The first part is to transform the exterior of the Duck Farm house with water conservation demonstration gardens and the second part is to change the actual building into a community resource center.

Mr. Larry Smith stated that a design-build methodology was determined appropriate and necessary to allow for significant value engineering in order to meet available funding targets and also allows for a more cohesive construction sequence between the demonstration gardens and farmhouse renovation. Mr. Smith mentioned that the scope of work was included in the report as Exhibit C.

Mr. Munns stated that currently the WCA has \$891,200 available funds from the RMC for the Water Conservation Gardens and is expected to require additional funding up to \$2,100,000 for the renovation of the farmhouse for a total project cost between \$2,500,000 to \$3,500,000.

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

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR AZUSA SPRINGS WATER SYSTEM.

Ms. Michelle Tarian stated that the Azusa Springs Water System (ASWS) is a public water system that serves the WCA/RMC office and is the legal owner of the ASWS and responsible for complying with all requirements and conditions defined in the permit (Exhibit B).

Ms. Tarian also stated that on August 19, 2018 the consultant that monitored the ASWS notified the State Water Resource Control Board of ASWS equipment damage due to a power outage that occurred on June 20, 2018. She also stated that this was the first notification WCA received of a power surge or damaged water monitoring equipment. She further stated that on August 20, 2018 WCA was notified by the Control Board of two compliance issues happening at ASWS. The first notification was on May 15, 2018 and the second Surface Water Treatment Rule Citation was issued on September 24, 2018 and due to Violation and Citation and the damaged equipment resulting in the lack of water monitoring, the Control Board issued a boil water notice to ASWS on August 20, 2018.

Ms. Tarian stated that on December 15, 2018 WCA sent a letter to WaterWorks requesting reimbursement for the enforcement fee for the violation and requested written agreement to reimburse WCA for anticipated second enforcement fee. She further stated that on February 22, 2019 WCA sent a letter to WaterWorks notifying them of their right of recoupment for the enforcement fee per their service contract.

Ms. Tarian stated as of March 4, 2019, Waterworks officially gave WCA a three-day notice to terminate their service contract which ended their existing contract four months earlier than the original terms, which ends June 31, 2019.

Ms. Tarian stated that due to the termination of the WaterWorks contract, WCA is in immediate need to fill the service operator position and repair all damaged equipment necessary to be removed from boil water notice, so WCA reached out to twenty-two individuals and organizations through phone calls and emails and WCA received three informal estimates from ECS Company, Seaco Technologies and McMor Chlorination, Inc.

Ms. Tarian concluded the WCA would like to enter into a short-term agreement with the bidder who best fits the WCA criteria and budget for the remainder of FY18/19 and that repairs will be funded under the budgeted Deferred Maintenance Contingency for FY18/19. She also stated that Contracted operator services will be funded under the category of Water System Operation/Irrigation up to the FY18/19 budgeted amount of \$26,764 not to exceed \$34,568.

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

19. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO TIDAL INFLUENCE, LLC TO CONDUCT A SPRING BIOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S VASQUEZ PROPERTY.

Ms. Jane Tsong stated that the recommendation is that the WCA governing board approve the award of a professional services contract to Tidal Influence in an amount of \$29,800 to conduct a Spring Biological Survey and Report of WCA's Vasquez property with the option to increase the contract by \$20,000 for additional services for a total authorized contract value not to exceed \$49,800.

Ms. Tsong stated that the Vasquez property is approximately 40 acres of undeveloped land in the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills for the purpose of watershed restoration, community-driven stewardship and potential for low-impact recreation which is why a biological survey is necessary to inform the development of a land management plan.

Ms. Tsong stated that 11 proposals were evaluated and the proposal found most beneficial to WCA was determined to be Tidal Influence, LLC .

Ms. Tsong mentioned that an existing grant from RMC will provide funding for Tidal Influence, LLC professional services to conduct a Spring Biological Survey and Report as well as funding for optional tasks valued at \$20,000.

There were no questions from the board.

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

20. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY AINS 8636-047-021, 8636-047-022, 8636-047-023, 8636-019-001, 8636-019-006, AND 8636-020-034 KNOWN AS COLBY PROPERTY FROM GLENDORA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE CITY OF GLENDORA.

_____ No additional information was presented

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

- 21. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: SAVE OUR ACCESS – SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS V. WCA, ET AL., LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 18STCP02904.**

This item went into Closed Session at approximately 2:45pm and ended at approximately 2:53pm. Deputy Attorney General stated that the Board has been updated and the Board provided direction.

- 22. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 1:30 pm.

- 21. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Board Member Arrighi at approximately 2:54 pm.

X

Herlinda Chico
Vice Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary