

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
September 12, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chico at approximately 10:10 a.m. The meeting was held at: San Gabriel Valley Water Company in El Monte.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Dan Arrighi (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Sandra Maravilla (for Supervisor Barger)
Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mr. Pestrella)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Mr. Jorge Morales (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Nicole Law, Fiscal Manager
Alex Linz, Project Manager
Bryan Moller, Project Manager
Jane Tsong, Project Manager
Jeremy Munns, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes were from July 18, 2019 meeting.

Board members voted. There were 4 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

7. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr. Stanley stated that most of the Assembly bills have moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee and this is the last week California State Assembly and Senate are in session so most Senate Bills have moved to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB352, a \$3,920,000,000 bond that would provide for the submission of several provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020 election will most likely not make it because it is due tomorrow and we'll know tomorrow at midnight whether SB45 will be moving forward.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB968, introduced by Cristina Garcia, failed the deadline and will now be a 2-year bill.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1269, specifically for the City of El Monte, did make it out of Senate Appropriations and will move forward.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1549, authored by Patrick O'Donnell, failed the deadline and will now be a 2-year bill.

Mr. Stanley stated that AB1694 did not make it out of Senate Appropriations and is now in suspense and we will re-engage with Assemblymember O'Donnell and our new Senator Lena Gonzalez at a later date in January.

Mr. Stanley stated that the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument turns five this year in the fall and WCA staff is working directly with USFS staff to develop a list of improvements to be made with the National Monument by June 30, 2020.

Mr. Stanley stated that the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative meeting was on July 25th which was the same day as the RMC's River Summit so staff was not able to attend that meeting, but will attend the next meeting on September 26th and will give an update at the next board meeting.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm Project continues to make progress and there are pictures on page 10 to show the construction that is taking place there.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the San Gabriel Mountains & Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan there are 3 elements WCA is working on which are 1) Biological resources and role of the foothills, 2) waiting to receive Conservation Easement documents so that the transfer of Easley Canyon to WCA gets completed and 3) Applications have been submitted to RMC's Prop 68 funds to acquire another 40 acres of the Vasquez property and additional funds are required to acquire the Rainbow Ranch.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Vasquez Acquisition, WCA is working with an Escrow agent to complete appraisal reports and a biological survey has been submitted by Tidal Influence.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Crystal Lake Redevelopment and San Gabriel Canyon Master Planning the USFS, WCA and consultant project team are evaluating completed and unfinished elements of this planning project to make best use of USFS Master Agreement funds before they revert in July 2020.

Mr. Stanley stated that River Wilderness Park did not receive the grant from Caltrans for the roundabout, but staff is working with City of Azusa, Caltrans and Design Team to restart and complete the design for the overlook and park entry improvement elements of the park.

Mr. Stanley stated that for the Parque dos Rios project we have a ground-breaking event this Wednesday and we are expecting Supervisor Hilda Solis to be in attendance as well as Dan Knapp from Flood Control and Mayor and City Council members of South Gate will also be in attendance.

Mr. Stanley concluded this report with the River Ranger Program being finalized in June 2019. The document was printed, bounded and delivered to Speaker Anthony Rendon, Assembly Members Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia and Patrick O'Donnell as well as Senator Henry Stern. Mr. Stanley mentioned that WCA has requested an extension of the grant for Task 3, Project Management and Task 4, Printing/Outreach Supplies and a grant for implementation of the Plan is expected to be submitted in quarter 4 2019.

8. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nicole Law stated that the FY 2018/2019 budget with balances as of June 30, 2019 was attached as Exhibit A , FY 2019/2020 was attached as Exhibit B and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the quarter ending March 31, 2019 were attached as Exhibit C. Nicole mentioned that the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the quarter ending June 30, 2019 had not been finalized from the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller but would be included in the next board meeting.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 9. FUND BALANCE REPORT**
- 10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE EAST FORK SUSTAINABLE RIVER ACCESS PROJECT.**
- 11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE APPLICATION FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARK PROPOSITION 68 STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITATLIZATION GRANT FUNDS.**
- 12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO THE PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED DUCK FARM PROJECT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ABSENCE OF THE FARM HOUSE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES SIGNIFICANCE.**

Board Member Arrighi motioned to approve items 9 through 12. Board Member Chang seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR

- 13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN UPDATE TO THE EMPLOYEE HAND**

BOOK.

Nicole stated that this item requests an update to the Employee Handbook, attached as Exhibit A, to be consistent with California state laws. Nicole also stated that there were 3 changes which included Section 2.4, page 7, Harassment, Section 6.11, page 22, Visitors and Children in the Workplace and Section 11.4, page 33, Paid Sick Leave.

There were no questions from the board.

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

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR AND/OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO PROVIDE A BIOLOGICAL REPORT FOR SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS AND FOOTHILLS ACQUISITION PLAN.

Jane Tsong stated the scope of work will include analysis of regional-scale biological opportunities, recommendations and optional maps for a not-to-exceed amount up to \$20,000. Ms. Tsong also stated that WCA will conduct a competitive RFP process for biological consultants and a consultant will be chosen from candidates who can demonstrate substantial field experience in the San Gabriel Mountain Foothills and insight into factors that affect regional conservation priorities and the requested services will take place between October 15, 2019 and April 30, 2020.

There were no questions from the board.

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

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) APPROVE THE DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE DUCK FARM RIVER PARK RIVERWALK; AND 2) AUTHORIZE THE FILING OF A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION.

Bryan Moller stated that the 1.2 mile extension of the current Duck Farm River Park Riverwalk which is an Access Road for County vehicles but will function as a multi-use path and may potentially include shade structures, fencing, landscaping, viewing areas, overlooks and interpretive signs.

Mr. Moller also stated that to satisfy CEQA requirements for the project, a Notice of Exemption needs to be filed and posted for this project.

Board member Juarez asked which county departments were engaged in conversation with Debbie. Bryan answered and said it was multiple departments including Public Works and Parks and Rec.

Madam Chair Chico asked if there would be a need for water fountains due to the extension opening to pedestrians and equestrian center. Bryan answered and said potentially water

fountains would not be needed on the trail but there would be fountains in the park itself.

Board member Hernandez asked who did the initial study of this extension. Bryan answered and said there was no study conducted and there were minor alterations similar to the Parque Dos Rios project. She also asked if the right-of-way was Flood Control District and Bryan answered yes it is. Jeremy answered that the Parks and Recreation Office refers to the access road as a trail, which is mentioned in several places within the county trail system.

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

16. 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.

There was no closed session.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 1:30 pm at The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Madam Chair Chico at approximately 10:46 am.

X

Herlinda Chico
Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary