

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
March 19, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mejia at 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held at:
Hall of Admin., 500 W. Temple Street, Room 383, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Gateway Cities COG, 16401 Paramount Blvd., Conf. Room, Paramount, CA 90723
San Gabriel Valley Water Company, 11142 Garvey Avenue, El Monte, CA 91734

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Brian Mejia, Chair (for Supervisor Antonovich)
Mr. Armond Ghazarian (for Ms. Farber)
Ms. Connie Sziebl (for Supervisor Knabe)
Mr. Dan Arrighi
Ms. Teresa Villegas, Vice Chair (for Supervisor Solis)
Mr. Ed Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Karly Katona (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)
Mr. Frank Colonna

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Tarighi, Board Secretary
Jennifer Thompson, Fiscal Manager
Rob Romanek, Project Manager
Terry Fujimoto, Counsel

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

There were no corrections noted.

Board member Wilson moved to have the January 22, 2015 minutes approved. Board member Sziebl seconded the motion. Board Voted - 3 ayes; 0 naves; 1 abstention.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report given. Meeting went into Closed Session at approximately 1:45 pm.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

6. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Executive Officer stated that the Integrated Regional Water Management Leadership Committee is continuing to revise their Operational Guidelines and that a list of opportunities have been listed in the staff report as a recap. Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that the Department of Water Resources announced the release of the draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the 2015 Implementation Grant Solicitation funded by Proposition 84. He also mentioned that the public comment period will close on April 24, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Mr. Stanley further mentioned that the DAC will be holding a series of Water Dialogues for items relevant to water and the first one took place on Friday, March 15, 2015 with Assembly Member Anthony Rendon as the speaker. Mr. Stanley stated that the SGRDCA will be issuing a monthly informational letter to report the progress of the Discovery Center project. Vice Chair Villegas stated that someone from City of South El Monte had mentioned that the construction would start sometime next month and Mr. Stanley answered with we are finishing up construction documents and would not be starting the actual construction until September due to nesting season and that he would be more than happy to provide them with an update on the progress of the project. Mr. Stanley mentioned that the WCA started a Jr. Ranger program and it is in their second week and attendance has been very good. He stated that a community oriented dedicated to bicycle education started it's month long bike train at the River Wilderness Park. It is a family-friendly program that will include a 15-20 mile, community bike tour along the Emerald Necklace. Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that the construction documents for the front entry improvement project at River Wilderness Park is at 60% and will be presented to the board this coming summer. Mr. Stanley stated that AECOM experienced a small set back due to the loss of some key personnel for the duck farm final submittal of construction documents but that a new Landscape Architect has been brought on board and is coming up to speed and is committed to having the resubmittal packages ready by April. Vice Chair Villegas requested that an updated timeline for the duck farm project be sent to her and Mr. Stanley assured her that he would provide an update to the board. Mr. Stanley stated that there would be a ribbon cutting of the Mt. Baldy Habitat & Open Space project in either April or May once the Eagle Scouts have placed all of the signage on the property.

7. EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Executive Officer explained that all administrative and operational lease revenue is on target with projection and in terms of expenses, he further explained that the first expense is due to vehicle damage to the WCA's property gate and fence on Highway 39 at the River Wilderness Park for a total expense of \$3,185 and the second expense is fiscal services- auditor controller and ranger services

that show an amount expended that is extremely under budget projections. A final budget for the fiscal year will be presented at a later meeting that will reflect all the invoices for these services.

8. FUND BALANCE REPORT

The Executive Officer stated that there are four items of note. He started with fund V15, there is an increase in Disadvantaged Communities sub grant due to a receipt of funds from West Basin for the DAC Coordination Program for 2015, fund V38/V78 there is an increase related to grant advance payments being received offset by grant expenditures, fund V61 there was a decrease of \$81K primarily due to payments made to consultants for the Cattle Canyon design portion of the project and insignificant increases in fund balances are directly related to quarterly accrued interest posted for the months of January to February 2015.

REGULAR CALENDAR

9. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR, OR DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY.

Jennifer presented this item. Ms. Thompson stated that the WCA is in need of entering into a professional services agreement with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$120,000 for the period of FY 2014/2015 through FY2016/2017 and approve an amendment to the current WCA's 2014/2015 fiscal year operating budget. She also stated that this services agreement would enable the WCA to provide specialized professional services and perform project management as well as administrative and financial management services in support of its mission, to build capacity and in leveraging the work of its core State employee staff.

Board Member Wilson moved to approve the resolution. Board member Sziebl seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO: 1) ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH NORTH EAST TREES FOR WCA TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; AND, 2) AWARD A CONSULTING CONTRACT TO NORTH EAST TREES TO IMPLEMENT THE GATEWAY CITIES AND RIVERS URBAN GREENING MASTER PLAN PROJECT.

Debbie presented this item. Ms. Enos stated that this item is being brought back to the board because it was tabled last meeting. Ms. Enos continued to state that the WCA is recommending that the board authorize the Chair or designee to enter into a professional services contract with North East Trees in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 and secondly, award a consulting contract to North East Trees in an amount of up to \$240,000 to implement the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan project. Vice Chair Villegas asked if WCA could be the lead on this project and could we provide quarterly updates. Mr. Stanley confirmed that we are the lead on this project and promised that WCA would provide quarterly updates to the board.

Board Member Wilson moved to adopt the resolution; Board member Arrighi seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

- 11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) RATIFY A RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT TO FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION OF ROBERTS CANYON FOOTHILL OPEN SPACE; AND, 2) AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY. APN NOS. 8684-006-005, 8684-008-013, 8684-025-029 AND 8684-052-002 IN THE CITY OF AZUSA. PROPERTY OWNER: STANDARD PACIFIC HOMES. WCA NEGOTIATORS: LAURIE COLLINS, ESQUIRE, MARK STANLEY, DEBBIE ENOS, ROB ROMANEK.**

Rob presented this item. Mr. Romanek gave a brief description of where the Roberts Canyon property is located and also pointed out that in Exhibit B of the staff report the board members would be able to see exactly where Roberts Canyon is exactly located. Mr. Romanek mentioned that there are two potentially significant constraints that require further pre-acquisition investigation which are 1) slope stability and 2) long-term annual maintenance responsibilities for fuel modification zones. Mr. Romanek continued to say that the WCA will seek the acquisition of Roberts Canyon Foothill Open Space as a gift or will seek a purchase using funds grant from RMC15102 in the amount of \$52,500 that was approved by the RMC at its January 26, 2015 board meeting. Board member Wilson asked how the Roberts Canyon property would affect the national monument and Mr. Romanek answered that this particular property is outside of the national monument area. Board member Sziebl had concerns about acquiring the property before involving the home owners in any decisions being made and Mr. Stanley answered by saying that this property has the opportunity to extend a trail across the property but that we have to do due diligence work first to see if it is at all feasible and that there may be mitigation opportunities as well and that discussions have been made with the Los Angeles County Flood District. Mr. Stanley re-assured the board that any decisions or updates with this property would be brought back to the board for further discussion.

Chair Mejia moved to adopt the resolution; Vice Chair Villegas seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

- 12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO ACCEPT FUNDS TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE OAKS PICNIC AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; AND, 2) ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE RESOURCE LEGACY FUND AND NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION.**

Rob presented this item. Mr. Romanek explained that this project is a newly proposed offshoot of the San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Improvement Project and is proposed to be completed over a nine-month timeframe. Mr. Romanek further explained that the three key elements of this project would include renovating the Oaks Picnic Area with new picnic tables, BBQ grills, hot coal bins, trash receptacles, restroom refurbishments or replacements, installing signage and install temporary safety improvements to non-vehicular access routes that lead down to the East Fork. Ms. Faustinos, on behalf of San Gabriel Mountains Forever, made a public comment on this item and just wanted to commend the WCA in the pilot project of the Cattle Canyon for all of their work and dedication to the project and mentioned that SGMF is looking forward to working with WCA on the new project. Mr. Belden, on behalf of the National Forest Foundation, also made a public comment on this item and stated that he just wanted to show support for this new project. Board Member Sziebl asked how soon would the project be funded and also questioned whether the restroom would be refurbished or replaced because that is a big cost difference. Mr. Romanek explained that WCA is

seeking authorization for this project to be funded with this item and that this is a Forest Service project and the WCA is providing services to it.

Board Member Arrighi moved to adopt the resolution; Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 5 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A DESIGN SERVICES CONTRACT TO NORTH EAST TREES FOR PARQUE DOS RIOS PROJECT.

Debbie Enos presented this item and stated that the WCA is seeking approval to award a design services contract to North East Trees in an amount of \$38,000 with a WCA held contingency in the amount of \$10,000 for the Parque Dos Rios project. Ms. Enos further explained that NET completed their RMC grant scope with the delivery of Construction Document set for this project which did not include permit set updates nor construction design and field support services. Ms. Enos mentioned since that time, NET has provided a design services proposal to complete permitting updates and the contingency that this particular update may require an Army Corps of Engineers resubmittal and permit update and the NET contract will be funded by the Regional Parks and Open Space District Proposition A grant to WCA to implement the Parque Dos Rios project.

Board member Arrighi moved to adopt the resolution; Chair Mejia seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER PROJECT.

Mr. Stanley gave a brief description of this project and explained the three stages which are enhancing education and interpretive programming, Stage One, construction of water quality components and restoration of the site area and State Two, construction of the main interpretive center building and an outdoor classroom. Mr. Stanley further explained that in order to carryout activities of the SGRDCA, the SGRDCA has contracted with the WCA to provide administration and management of agency activities so desires to continue to take advantage of its relationship and utilize the WCA to provide task management for its capital activity on the Discovery Center project. Mr. Stanley stated that this action would approve additional revenue for the WCA in an amount totaling \$407,581 over a contract period covering April 1, 2015 through the end of July 31, 2016. Board Member Sziebl made an observation of how the Discovery Center has no employees and wanted to know who was doing all of the work.

Chair Mejia moved to adopt the resolution; Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO: 1) APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER (SGRDC) AUTHORITY SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (SEP) ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY; AND, 2) AUTHORIZE THE WCA CHAIR, OR DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SGRDC FOR FUND DISBURSEMENT.

Mr. Stanley explained that the next steps in moving the Discovery Center project forward requires the Authority staff to seek an amendment to the Escrow Agreement to allow for the revision of the funding requirement and will allow the \$2.2 million dollars held in escrow to be released. Mr. Stanley further explained that the Authority is seeking the board's approval to allow the WCA Chair to negotiate an Memorandum of Understanding with the SGRDCA to establish the relationship between the two parties to fulfill the requirements of the Escrow Agreement and expenditures of funds which will address the SGRDCA seeking matching funds as part of the Escrow Agreement, the SGRDCA management and hiring of consultants to complete the work, tasks, and milestones of the project, establish SGRDCA as responsible party for the completion of reporting requirements and the project milestones and establish how expenditures will be approved, how funds will be disbursed and the relationship that both organization's fiscal agents involvement.

Board member Arrighi moved to adopt the resolution; Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously passed. Board Voted – 4 ayes; 0 nays; and 0 abstentions.

- 16. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (d)(2), THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: 1) LEINCO ENTERPRISES V. WCA, ET AL., LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. BC500513. STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF PURSUANT TO SECTION 54954.2(a) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.**

Meeting went into Closed Session at approximately 2:40 pm and went back into Public Session at 2:50 pm. Staff from Olivarez & Madruga Attorney's office provided an update on recent and upcoming activity.

- 17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2015.

- 18. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mejia at approximately 3:04pm.

X

Brian Mejia
Chair

X

Dena Tarihi
Board Secretary