DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

March 10, 2008

I. Call to Order.

The special teleconference meeting of the Governing Board of the Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority was called to order by Chair Jim Dodson, on March 10, 2008, at 10:20 a.m. at the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District, 44811 North Date Avenue, Suite G, Lancaster, California and at the following location: Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, Orchard Rooms A and B, Santa Clarita, California.

II. Roll Call.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Jim Dodson, Chair; Richard Gould; Vice-Chair; and Ron Krueper. Quorum present.

Staff present: Jeff Maloney, Staff Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Chief of Natural Resources and Planning; Frances Dea, Board Secretary.

Members of the Public Present: Mr. Webb at Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District meeting location.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 8, 2007.

The minutes of meeting November 8, 2007 were submitted for approval.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, minutes of meeting November 8, 2007 were unanimously adopted.

IV. Public comment on matters not appearing on the Meeting Agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Authority.

No comments were made on matters not appearing on this meeting agenda or any other matter.

V. Discussion of low impact wind generation facilities on future DMCA land holdings.

Discussion was open and led by Mr. Edelman. Mr. Edelman provided background information. A utility representative contacted staff on potential development of low impact wind generation facilities on future DMCA land holdings.

Comments were made by Mr. Krueper in regard to compatibility with mission statement of the DMCA.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson on potential environmental impacts on wildlife.

Comments were made by Mr. Krueper in regard to environmental impacts being site specific.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson and Mr. Edelman on behavioral impacts to birds.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson in regard to pursuing more information on low impact wind generation facilities from the utility representative.

Comments were made by Mr. Gould.

VI. Discussion and possible action on the proposed trailhead parking area Joshua Ranch Open Space dedication, City of Palmdale.

Discussion was opened and led by Mr. Edelman on proposed trailhead parking area Joshua Ranch Open Space dedication.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman on retaining a conservation easement the over one-acre of trailhead parking if transferred to the City of Palmdale.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Dodson if staff had talked to City of Palmdale about the trailhead.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman that staff had not yet contacted Palmdale.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman in regard to maintenance of the trailhead facility.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson on potential trails and condition of the land on Joshua Ranch property.

Comments were made by Mr. Krueper.

Comments were made by Mr. Gould on the former discussion of location of the restroom at the trailhead.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould in regard to the advantage of the trailhead property being transferred.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson in response to Mr. Gould that the transferring of the property to be beneficial.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman in regard to the composition of the parking lot and the proposed hydro seeding.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould on the City of Palmdale's track record of enforcing conditions of approval.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson in response to Mr. Gould's concern.

Comments were made by the Governing Board members that directed staff to further discuss concerns of maintenance fees and retaining a conservation over the Joshua Ranch trailhead with City of Palmdale officials.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Edelman.

The Governing Board members directed staff to agendize the Joshua Ranch trailhead at next DMCA meeting.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson.

VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of donation of approximately 4.5-acres of land (APN 3310-004-039) located in Antelope Valley, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Discussion was opened and led by Mr. Dodson on the donation of approximately 4.5-acres of land located in Antelope Valley.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Questions were made by Mr. Dodson on having which staff member contacted about the donation process.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman in response to Mr. Dodson that Staff Counsel Mr. Maloney be contacted.

On motion of Mr. Krueper, duly seconded, Resolution 08-01 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire potential mitigation lands east of Edwards Air Force Base, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Discussion was opened and led by Mr. Edelman.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson on funding sources.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman on the scope and parameter of funding sources.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, Resolution 08-02 was unanimously adopted.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into contracts for pre-acquisition services in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed funded by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman in regard to the grant available to the DMCA from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and using the grant to contract for pre-acquisition services with the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC).

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson on the letter provided by the RLC.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson.

On motion of Mr. Krueper, duly seconded, Resolution 08-03 was unanimously adopted.

X. Statements, questions, and directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.

Mr. Dodson directed a question to Mr. Edelman asking if staff had recently spoke with the Quail Valley developer.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman that staff had not been in contact with the Quail Valley developer recently.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson on encouraging Quail Valley developer to dedicate open space to a public agency.

Questions were made by Mr. Edelman on the housing market around the Quail Valley area.

Comments were made by Mr. Dodson in response Mr. Edelman on the housing market in the general Antelope Valley area.

XI. Announcement of future meeting and adjournment.

Chair Jim Dodson announced the next regular scheduled DMCA meeting is June 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Santa Clarita City Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joseph T. Edmiston, Hon. ASLA, FAICP
Executive Officer

Approved:

Jim Dodson
Chair