

**MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

April 9, 1998

I. Call to Order.

A special meeting of the Governing Board of the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by the Chair at 10:05 a.m. at the Santa Clarita City Hall, Orchard Room A and B, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, California.

II. Roll Call.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Mr Putnam, Chair; Mr. Daniel, Vice-Chair; Mr. Calleia; and Mr. Carvalho.

The following members were absent: None. Quorum present.

Representing the staff were: Ms. Skei, Assistant Executive Officer; Mr. Edelman, Staff Ecologist; and Ms. Howard Acting Board Secretary.

Members of the public: Mr. Hunt Braly.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 20, 1998

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the minutes were approved as corrected for the meeting November 20, 1998.

IV. Consideration of resolution authorizing comment letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors regarding the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan and related cases.

Ms. Skei presented the draft comment letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, prepared by Caryle Hall of Hall & Associates on the Newhall Ranch Development Project Final EIR, regarding inadequate evaluation of environmental impacts and needed mitigation measures relating to proposed open space dedications.

Chairman Putnam called for a ten minute break at 10:11 a.m. for members to re-read the comment letter.

Public comment: There was none.

Typographical and grammatical changes were suggested by Mr. Daniel and Mr. Calleia.

Mr Carvalho asked about any discussions with the Center for National Land Management (CNLM), Newhall Ranch, and the Conservancy, requesting that the City be kept informed and involved in the open space ownership and management issues.

Mr. Carvalho suggested that SCWRCA continue to voice its critical concerns about public ownership, timing of property transfer; also including the River open space in terms of management and ownership discussions between that private group and the Conservancy; reversionary rights to Newhall; proximity of property to existing public open space and trails; and control of public access. He also inquired whether SWRCA might be expanded by adding Los Angeles County representation, and if the open space areas could be given to SCWRCA as a public land owner. Ms. Skei replied that the idea of adding new members is up to SCWRCA and its constituent members, the City and the Conservancy; and that SCWRCA land ownership is certainly feasible.

Mr. Calleia suggested an Executive Summary should be added as a cover letter to the comment letter to the Board of Supervisors, highlighting SCWRCA's concerns in bullet form, and incorporating Mr. Carvalho's list of critical issues.

On motion of Mr. Calleia, duly seconded, and the comment letter was approved with corrections and amendments, and Resolution No. 98-01 was adopted.

V. Consideration of resolution authorizing letter of support for AB 1743 (Runner), legislation to expand the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.

Ms. Skei stated that the Board had passed a resolution requesting the introduction of a Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor expansion bill at its November 1997 meeting, but that additional letter of support would be appropriate for the the bill as numbered and introduced.

On motion of Mr. Calleia, duly seconded, Resolution No. 98-02 was adopted.

Public comment: There was none.

Mr. Carvalho suggested that graphics of the beauty of the area to be included be available for the the Assembly Natural Resources Committee hearing.

On motion by Mr. Calleia, duly seconded, the letter was adopted.

VI. Status report on Santa Clarita Woodlands Park trails, programs, and flood damage.

Ms Skei reported on conditions following the El Nino storms. Previous road work by the

City and MRCA helped keep the damage to a minimum. Some stream crossings will require additional work. Ms. Skei responded to Mr. Carvalho's question regarding potential culvert work and other stream crossing repairs west of the Towsley Lodge area, that the MRCA has made application to FEMA, and expects to be able to handle the work.

Mr Carvalho also asked about whether new mountain bike trails are planned in Towsley. Ms. Skei responded that the new multi-use loop trail from upper Wiley Canyon into upper Towsley Canyon is available for bicycling use. When and where additional trails would be built would have to be carefully assessed with existing or new trail planning, based primarily on resource protection for sensitive habitat and terrain constraints. The Woodlands is within a Significant Ecological Area.

VII. Public comment on any matter not on the agenda.

There was none.

VIII. Statements, responses, questions, or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.

There were none.

IX. Announcement of future meeting and adjournment.

Mr. Putnam suggested a tentative date of May 7, 1998 Thursday 11:00 a.m. City Hall of Santa Clarita.

Meeting adjournment 11:19 a.m.