

# **SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

*A public entity of the State of California exercising joint powers of the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Monica Mountains  
Conservancy pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 et seq*

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

**June 5, 2008**

### **I. Call to Order.**

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by the Chair, Jerome Daniel, at 10:08 a.m. on June 5, 2008 in Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, California.

### **II. Roll Call.**

The roll was called and the following members were present: Kenneth Pulskamp; Richard Gould, Vice Chair; and Jerome Daniel, Chair. Michael Berger entered at 10:13 a.m. Quorum present.

Staff present: Rorie Skei, Deputy Executive Officer; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Ranger Jodi Thomas; Mary Ann Rupecht, City Finance Department; Carmen Magana, City Finance Department; Darren Hernandez, SCWRCA Fiscal Officer and Treasurer; and Frances Dea, Board Secretary.

Members of the public present: Henry Schultz, Santa Clarita Valley Sierra Club; Barbara Stoll, Acquisition Specialist, City of Santa Clarita and Kate Lasard, City of Santa Clarita.

### **III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of December 6, 2007.**

The minutes of December 6, 2007, were submitted for approval.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the minutes of December 6, 2007 were unanimously adopted.

### **IV. Public comment on agenda items or any other matter.**

No public comments were made on the agenda items or any other matter.

**V. Report on legislation.**

The discussion was opened and led by Ms. Skei on Elsmere Canyon being included to be part of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy zone and Rim of the Valley trail corridor with the additional bill presented by Senator Runner.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei on working with the National Recreation Area and Federal Funding for acquisition of open space parcels.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by Mr. Pulskamp on Congressman McKeon and H.R. 5887.

**VI. Ranger report on Whitney Canyon and other park operations.**

Ranger Jodi Thomas provided an update on Whitney Canyon Park and other park operations.

Ranger Thomas reported that Caltrans solved the ingress, egress issues. An update was provided on the issue of copper theft in Whitney Canyon and surrounding canyons and parks. Copper theft has decreased with providing additional security patrols with DWP. Ranger Thomas also reported that equestrian use has increased at Whitney Canyon Park.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Skei.

Ranger Thomas responded in regard to the habits of recreational users being more affected by the time of day rather than the temperature.

Comments were made by Mr. Daniel.

**VII. Consideration of resolution authorizing amending the contract with the Riverside Land Conservancy for pre-acquisition services in the upper Santa Clara Watershed and authorizing acceptance of funds from other public and private entities for said contracts.**

The discussion was opened and led by Mr. Edelman. Mr. Edelman stated that he has been pleased with the work the Riverside Land Conservancy (RLC) has done.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman in regard to the City of Santa Clarita, Vulcan Materials Company and SCWRCA allocating additional funds for RLC contract amendment.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Edelman.

Mr. Gould responded in regard to moving forward and honoring the contract amendment to the RLC on the condition that RLC spend only up to the amount of funding available.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei that the RLC not spend more than \$30,000.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman on how efficient RLC has been with funding that has been available.

Comments were made by Mr. Gould.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould in regard to the acquisition of the Rodda parcels.

Mr. Edelman responded in regard to the acquisition of the Rodda parcels and how the acquisition would only be negatively impacted if the MRCA is not awarded the funding from the RMC Grant.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Berger.

Ms. Skei responded in regard to the concern on the state legislature granting funding.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei that the shortfall in the Conservancy fund will be made up.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, Resolution 08-01 was unanimously adopted by the Governing Board.

**VIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing the exchange of easements with Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power in Whitney Canyon Park, in order to correct alignment with the Los Angeles Aqueduct.**

Discussion was opened and led by Ms. Skei. Ms. Skei provided an update on the discussion of the exchanging of easements between SCWRCA and Los Angeles City DWP in Whitney Canyon Park. Staff has been in contact with DWP on site visitations and negotiations.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman that it is better to have the easement over the aqueduct.

Comments were made by Mr. Berger.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei.

Comments were made by Mr. Pulskamp that the City of Santa Clarita has had problems with DWP on tree cutting to install power lines.

Comments were made by Mr. Gould.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, Resolution 08-02 was unanimously adopted by the Governing Board with the conditional approval for further discussions with DWP and the City of Santa Clarita.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman on Elsmere Canyon with MRCA owned property and in-lieu-fee mitigation restoration projects conflicted with DWP's easement widening project. California Department of Fish and Game ordered a cease and desist on DWP.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei on the Los Angeles Aqueduct being antiquated.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould on how DWP would access the tunnel at Elsmere Canyon.

Mr. Edelman responded in regard to how DWP accessed the tunnel at Elsmere Canyon.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Pulskamp in regard to the amount of grading required for the DWP easement.

Mr. Edelman responded in regard to amount of grading required for the DWP easement.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould.

Mr. Edelman responded in regard to the potential negative impacts from the aqueduct construction on Elsmere Canyon parking lot area.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould in regard to additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Edelman and Ms. Skei responded in regard to additional funding opportunities arising from the DWP construction.

**IX. Consideration of resolution amending Resolution 06-5 to include APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008, and 009, Agua Dulce.**

The discussion was opened and led by Mr. Edelman. Mr. Edelman stated that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority applied for grant funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant. The additional parcels to be added to Resolution 06-5 are located within the CAPP boundaries and are critical for wildlife movement.

On Motion of Mr. Berger, duly seconded, Resolution 08-03 was unanimously adopted by the Governing Board to amend Resolution 06-5 to include APNs 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 008, and 009.

**X. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Governing Board review the draft SCWRCA Budget for fiscal year 2008-09 and recommend sending the draft budget to the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for approval.**

The Budget was presented by Ms. Magana from the City of Santa Clarita Finance Department.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould in regard to budget money reserved and spent on improvements in Whitney Canyon Park.

Ms. Skei responded in regard to the reserved budget money having been spent on improvements in Whitney Canyon Park.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman about the invasive star thistle.

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, Resolution 08-04 was unanimously adopted by the Governing Board.

**XI. Consideration of resolution adopting the FY 2008-09 Workprogram.**

Discussion was opened and led by Ms. Skei.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman on potential land acquisitions in the future and potential properties to add to the workprogram.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei on Elsmere Canyon.

Comments were made by Mr. Pulskamp that achieving the SCWRCA Workprogram goal would be a great accomplishment in itself.

On motion of Mr. Berger, duly seconded, Resolution 08-05 was unanimously adopted by the Governing Board.

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

Mr. Gould introduced City of Santa Clarita staff members Barbara Stoll, Acquisition Specialist and Kate Lasard, Administrative Analyst.

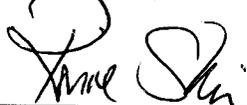
Comments were made by Ms. Skei on her appreciation for all that the City of Santa Clarita has done for SCWRCA.

**XIII. Announcement of future meeting and adjournment.**

Chair Jerome Daniel announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Clarita City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Daniel at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Rorie Skei  
Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Approved:



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Jerome C. Daniel  
Chair