

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
of the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
and the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

1. Call to order.

The 341st joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chairperson Ronald Schafer at 7:30 p.m. on June 1, 2009 at Franklin Canyon Park, Beverly Hills, California.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Elizabeth A. Cheadle, Woody Smeck, Elva Yañez, Linda Parks, Bryan Cash, and Ronald Schafer, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: James Berkus, Jerome C. Daniel, and Antonio Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Michael Blanton, Elaine Freeman, Anita Fromholz, Richard Gould, Alan Kishbaugh, Holly LaRue, Paul Rabinov, Roseann Mikos, Linda Palmer, Barry Read, Paul Rockenstein, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Marc Stirdivant, Timothy Wendler, George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Donald Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members arrived subsequent to roll call: Michael Cacciotti and Garen Yegparian. The following members were absent: Caroline Brown, David Brown, Mary Sue Maurer, Dennis Seider, Harry Schwarz, Nancy Stephens, and Donald Voss.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Staff Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, Melissa Cartelli, Executive Assistant, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chair announced that the following legislative participants were present: Sharon Mayer and Aron Miller.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of April 27, 2009 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of April 27, 2009 were approved as submitted.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy received oral reports from Woody Smeck, representing the National Park Service; the Executive Director; George Lange, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA); the Chair; and Barbara Romero, representing MRCA.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

No comments were made.

8. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.

The following members of the public addressed the Conservancy:

Don P. Mullally, member of the public.
Chris Rowe, representing the West Hills Neighborhood Council.
Fran Bibian, member of the public.
John Luchner, representing the Santa Susana Mountains Park Association.

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Santa Clarita on Master Case 08-033, 23300 Newhall Avenue, confluence of Elsmere Creek and south fork of the Santa Clara River.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on Triunfo Creek crossing and road project, 3052 Triunfo Canyon Road, Santa Monica Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to use Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund to acquire APNs 4444-024-010 and 4444-026-020, unincorporated Topanga Canyon.**

- (d) **Consideration of resolution authorizing (1) adoption of Section 4(f) de minimus findings for impacts of proposed Interstate 5 HOV/Truck Lane Project on a Conservancy-owned corner of the Santa Clarita Woodlands park; (2) transfer of jurisdiction to Caltrans of approximately 0.026 acre area, and (3) acceptance of mitigation funding and property interests, unincorporated Newhall Area.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Rockenstein, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommendation of adoption of Resolution Nos. 09-12, 09-13, 09-14, and 09-15.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 09-12, 09-13, 09-14, and 09-15.

- 10. Staff presentation on progress of inter-mountain range wildlife corridor protection within the Santa Monica Mountains and Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zones.**

The staff report for this item was presented by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

- 11. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to California Coastal Commission on proposed five residences, access road, and associated improvements (Application Nos. 4-07-067, 4-07-068, 4-07-146, 4-07-147, and 4-08-043) and proposed lot line adjustment between two vacant 40-acre parcels to site future residential development proposed in permits 4-07-146 and 4-07-147 (Application No. 4-07-148), near Sweetwater Mesa Road, County of Los Angeles.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

- 12. Consideration of resolution authorizing an advance of funds from the Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for habitat restoration project in Gopher Canyon, Browns Canyon watershed, unincorporated Chatsworth area.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game on the Draft Joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report for Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan, unincorporated Santa Clarita area.

Comments were made by Ms. Cheadle.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommendation of adoption of Resolution No. 09-18.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 09-18.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a technical grant amendment to allow for advance payment: (a) SMM-0815; (b) SMM-0816; (c) SMM CF-907, and (d) SMM-05054.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Cash.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos, and Mr. Cash.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, and Ms. Lisa Soghor, Director of Premier Parks for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommendation of adoption of Resolution No. 09-19.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 09-19.

15. Consideration of resolution approving the preliminary FY 2009 -2010 budget of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Executive Director.

Comments were made Jeff Jones, Assistant Financial Officer for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

Comments were made by Mr. Jones and the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommendation of adoption of Resolution No. 09-20.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 09-20.

Mr. Smeck was noted as abstaining from this item.

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing deferral of grants from Propositions 12, 40, 50, and 84 in accordance with budget letter 09-15.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Wendler.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Stirdivant.

Comments were made by Mr. Cash.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Smeck.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Wendler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommendation of adoption of Resolution No. 09-21.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 09-21.

Mr. Smeck was noted as abstaining from this item.

- 17. Closed Session: (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: Pending litigation – *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, et al.*; *Robings v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Case No. LC077488*; *Friends of Temescal Pool v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; *Boyajian v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*; *Robings v Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Case No. BC377233*, and *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Malibu*, and related actions.**

No closed session was held.

- 18. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.**

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on a July 27, 2009.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP
Executive Director

Approved:

RONALD P. SCHAFER
Chairperson