

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

October 27, 2003

1. Call to order.

The two hundred eighty seventh joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chairperson Jerome C. Daniel at 7:44 p.m on October 27, 2003 at Stewart Hall, Temescal Conference and Retreat Center, Pacific Palisades, California.

2. Administration of Oath of Office to Pedro Nava.

The Executive Director administered the Oath of Office to Pedro Nava.

Comments were made by Mr. Nava.

3. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Ed Begley, Jr, Pedro Nava, Hal Ross, Jonathan Zasloff, Elizabeth Cheadle, Vice Chair, and Jerome C. Daniel, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Heather Barnett, Jody Cook, Ronald P. Schafer, Linda Parks, and Woody Smeck.

4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Michael Cacciotti, Ed Corridori, Heinz Ellersieck, Richard Gould, Alan Kishbaugh, Anthony Portantino, Barry Read, Paul Rockenstein, Bruce Saito, Dennis Seider, Thomas Seifert, Lorraine Slattery, Marc Stirdivant, Timothy Wendler, Don Robinson, Vice Chair, and George Lange, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Claudia Bill De La Peña, Caroline Brown, Terre Hirsch, Mark Johnson, Roseann Mikos, Linda Palmer, and Nancy Stephens. The following members were present subsequent to roll call: David Brown and

Lesley Devine.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; MRCA staff: Reva Feldman, Deputy Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer for Education, Interpretation, and Urban Programs; Walt Young, Chief Ranger and Chief of Operations; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Lisa Soghor, Chief of Premier Parks; Gary Lysik, Finance Director; Kathleen Bullard, Chief of the Watershed Planning Division; Katherine Chew, Staff Counsel; Deborah Lambe, Staff Counsel; Juliet Chung, Government Program Analyst; Jan Wolterstorff, Public Outreach Coordinator and Project Analyst, Simon Macguire, PC Support Technician; Melissa Chigaridas, JPA Secretary, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

5. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chair announced that Laura Plotkin and Caroline Kraft were present. The following legislative participants were absent: Susan McEntire, Henry Lo, Mary Sue Maurer, and George Magallanes.

6. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of September 23, 2003 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of September 23, 2003 were approved as submitted.

7. Reports

The Conservancy and the Advisory Committee received verbal reports from the Chairperson, the Coastal Commission representative, the Executive Director, the Chief Counsel, the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, the Deputy Executive Officer for Education, Interpretation, and Urban Programs, the Chief of Finance, the Chief Ranger, the Chief of Operations, and the Chief of Construction.

8. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Advisory Committee members Anthony Portantino and Heinz Ellersieck.

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

The following persons addressed the Conservancy:

Mr. John Tizler, representing the National Park Service, on item 17.
Ms. Christopher Minnes, representing Tree People, on items 12, 14, and 15.
Mr. Arnold Newman, representing the International Society for Preservation of Tropical Rainforests, on various items not on the agenda.

10. Consent Calender:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Canyon Hills project, Verdugo Mountains.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Calabasas on the Notice of Preparation for the La Entrada on Las Virgenes Road Project.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the Stephen S. Wise Middle School Relocation Project, Mulholland Drive.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 2.77 acres (APN 2274-018-013) along Camino de la Cumbre, using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1, Sherman Oaks, and recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority advance funds for an acquisition deposit.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately a 10 acre portion of APN 5561-003-013, Thrasher Avenue, using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (f) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 1 acre, Cerillos Drive property (APNs 2170-001-029, 030, 031), using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 2, Woodland Hills.**
- (g) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 2.3 acres, Coldwater Canyon Lane property (APN 2385-023-014), using funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1, Los Angeles.**

- (h) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept private and public funds to extend existing land contracts for pending acquisitions within Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District Nos. 1 and 2.**
- (i) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a matching grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountain Lion Foundation, a tax exempt nonprofit organization, for a public information campaign on wildlife conservation at the urban interface.**
- (j) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services for the Vista Hermosa Park Project.**
- (k) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority apply for a United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Grant.**
- (l) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Stuart M. Ketchum Downtown YMCA, a tax exempt nonprofit organization, for the operation and management of the soccer field at Vista Hermosa Park, Los Angeles.**

At the request of Mr. Corridori, item 10(a) was removed from the Consent Calendar.

Item 10(b) was postponed to be heard subsequent to item 15.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 03-168, 03-169, 03-171, 03-172, 03-173, 03-174, 03-175, 03-176, 03-177.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 03-168, 03-169, 03-171, 03-172, 03-173, 03-174, 03-175, 03-176, 03-177, and 03-178 were unanimously adopted.

- 10(a). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Canyon Hills project, Verdugo Mountains.**

Questions were propounded to staff by Advisory Committee member Ed Corridori.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-167.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-167 was unanimously adopted.

11. Consent Calendar of Coastal Items:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept the following offers-to-dedicate trail easements: Watts / P-5-82-219 located on Zumirez Drive, east of Kanan, north of Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu; Anyon / P-5-82-279 located on Winding Way, north of Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, and McCarty & Frankel / P-5-82-359 located north of Latigo Canyon Road, east of Kanan Road, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority sell a 0.63 acre parcel (APN 4452-018-903) in lower Malibu Canyon in the Serra Retreat area to an adjacent homeowner, such sale being subject to a conservation easement and other conditions, Malibu.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a letter of intent to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for support of a Reconnaissance Study for a Lower Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan.**
- (d) **Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Coastal Commission and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority regarding the administration of the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, Los Angeles County.**

Item 11(d) was removed from the Consent Calendar and postponed to be heard subsequent to item 15.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Saito, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 03-179, 03-180, and 03-181.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Ross, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 03-179, 03-180, and 03-181 were unanimously adopted.

- 12. Presentation by Andy Lipkis, President of TreePeople and Kathleen Bullard, Chief of the Watershed Planning Division, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, on the opportunities for implementation of Chapter 8 of the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) through an integrated regional water management program in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.**

Comments were made by the President of TreePeople and Chief of the Watershed Planning Division.

Questions were propounded by Advisory Committee members Heinz Ellersieck, Dennis Seider, and Michael Cacciotti.

Comments were made by the President of TreePeople.

- 13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for implementation of the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code, by development of an integrated regional water management program in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.**

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Saito, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-183.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 03-183 was unanimously adopted.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to TreePeople, a tax exempt nonprofit organization, to assist in the development of an integrated regional water management program in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed.

Questions were propounded by Advisory Committee members Lesley Devine and Barry Read.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seifert, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-184.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-184 was unanimously adopted.

15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to TreePeople, a tax exempt nonprofit organization, for the Center for Community Forestry in Coldwater Canyon Park, Los Angeles, from Proposition 50 funds designated for nature and conservation education centers.

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

The Vice-Chair temporarily chaired the meeting for this item.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-185.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-185 was unanimously adopted.

10(b). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Calabasas on the Notice of Preparation for the La Entrada on Las Virgenes Road Project.

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Corridori.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-170.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-170 was unanimously adopted.

- 11(d). Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Coastal Commission and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority regarding the administration of the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, Los Angeles County.**

Questions were propounded by Advisory Committee Member Dennis Seider.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Devine, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-182.

Mr. Seider was noted as voting against recommendation.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-182 was adopted.

Mr. Ross was noted as abstaining from the item.

- 16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to establish a matching grant program to develop a Watershed Education and Visitor Center on Laskey Mesa as defined in the adopted Ahmanson Ranch Project Plan.**

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Advisory Committee Member Dave Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Robinson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-186.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-186 was unanimously adopted.

- 17. Consideration of resolution authorizing a matching grant of Proposition 40 funds to the National Park Service (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area) for completion of the Simi Hills vegetation mapping project.**

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-187.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-187 was unanimously adopted.

- 18. Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Work Plans.**

The Staff Report was presented by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Portantino, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 03-188.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, Resolution No. 03-188 was unanimously adopted.

- 19. 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 related to purchase and sale agreement with Washington Mutual Bank for the property commonly known as Ahmanson Ranch. Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: *City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.*; *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission*; *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Soka University of America*, and related cross-complaint: *Soka University of America v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*.

No Closed Session was held.

20. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on November 24, 2003. There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP
Executive Director

JEROME C. DANIEL
Chairperson