

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

November 4, 2013

1. Call to order.

The 404th joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Irma Muñoz, at 7:37 p.m. on November 4, 2013 at King Gillette Ranch, Calabasas, California.

2. Administration of Oath of Office to David Pettit.

The oath of office was administered by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by the Chair and Mr. Pettit.

3. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Tom Contreras; David Szymanski; David Pettit; Jerome C. Daniel; Bryan Cash (via teleconference); Craig Sap; Elizabeth Cheadle; Linda Parks, Vice Chairperson, and Irma Muñoz, Chairperson. A quorum was present.

4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Allison-Claire Acker; Sean Anderson; Caroline Brown; Illece Buckley Weber; Michael Cacciotti; Elaine Freeman; Richard Gould; Alan Kishbaugh; Mary Sue Maurer; Roseann Mikos; Mike Mishler; Anthony Portantino; David Ross; Wendy-Sue Rosen; Bob Thompson; Effie Turnbull Sanders; Marc Stirdivant; Tim Wendler; George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. A quorum was present. The following members were absent: Sean Arian; Jeffrey Jennings; Nancy Stephens, and Garen Yegparian.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Jeff Maloney, Chief Staff Counsel, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

5. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chairperson announced that the following Legislative Participants or their staff were present: Senator Fran Pavley; Louise Rishoff, and Tim Pershing.

6. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of September 23, 2013 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of September 23, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Mr. Pettit and Ms. Turnbull Sanders abstained from the vote.

7. Reports.

The Conservancy received oral reports from Mr. Szymanski, representing National Park Service; Mr. Sap, representing State Parks; Mr. Contreras, representing Angeles National Forest, and Mr. Lange, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

8. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Maurer; Mr. Wendler; Ms. Brown; Ms. Parks; Ms. Freeman; Mr. Cacciotti; The Executive Director, and Senator Pavley.

9. 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:

Jennifer Rothman, representing Save Coldwater Canyon, on item 10(a).

Susan Jacobs, member of the public, on item 10(a).

Jeff Jacobs, member of the public, on item 10(a).

Alex Izbich, member of the public, on item 10(a).

Arnold Newman, representing Oak Forest Canyon Homeowner Association, on item 14.

Lois Becker, representing Hillside Federation, on item 14.

Ronald Ziff, representing Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, on item 14.

Fiona Huxley, member of the public, on item 14.

Norm Haynie, member of the public, on items 12 and 14.
Raiford L. Langford, member of the public, on item 14.

10. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Harvard-Westlake School Parking Improvement Plan Project (SCH #2013041033, ENV-2013-0150-EIR), 3700-3701 N. Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Studio City.**
- (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of Grant No. SMM-40-1267 for additional closing costs to settle Towsley Canyon purchase agreement, Santa Clarita Woodlands, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the assignment of the right to apply for 5th District Specified Excess Funds to the Trust for Public Land for the acquisition of Newhall Pass properties east of Interstate 5, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 13-21; 13-22, and 13-23.

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

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 13-22 and 13-33.

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-21.

Mr. Daniel was noted as abstaining.

11. Review of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted Grant Program Evaluation Criteria.

The Conservancy received an oral report on this item from the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning and the Chief Deputy Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Anderson and the Chairperson.

Comments were made by Ms. Rosen; Ms. Mikos; the Executive Director; Mr. Portantino; Mr. Anderson; Mr. Cacciotti; Mr. Szymanski; the Chairperson, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Ross; Ms. Pavley, and the Chief Deputy Director.

Further discussion of this item was delegated to a sub-committee of volunteers representing both the Conservancy and Advisory Committee.

Item 17 was heard next.

[Ms. Maurer left the meeting at 9:50 p.m.]

17. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the Department of Toxic Substances Control on the Draft Remedial Action Plan for the Taylor Yard (G2 site).

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Freeman and Mr. Mishler.

Comments were made by Mr. Baldauf, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; the Executive Director; Mr. Wendler; Mr. Anderson; Mr. Pettit, and Ms. Parks.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-29.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-29.

[Ms. Maurer returned to the meeting at 10:14 p.m.]

- 12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study along 11 miles of the Los Angeles River, in the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Los Angeles.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Stirdivant, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-24.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-24.

- 13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a matching grant of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Santa Clarita for acquisition of Valley Vista project, approximately 232 acres (former Las Lomas project) in the Newhall Pass wildlife habitat linkage, APN's 2827-030-011,-012,013; 2827-029-008; 2827-031-002, and -007, Santa Clarita.**

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

Comments were made by Mr. Gould and Ms. Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cacciotti, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-25.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-25.

- 14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of APN 2274-018-014, Oak Forest Canyon wildlife corridor, City of Los Angeles.**

Comments were made by Ms. Rosen.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-26.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-26.

15. Consideration of resolution approving the use of Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund for the acquisition of approximately 416 acres in Decker Canyon, west of Decker Canyon Road, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu area.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Buckley Weber, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-27.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-27.

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Malibu on the Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Rancho Malibu Hotel Project (SCH #2012051035), 4000 Malibu Canyon Road, Malibu.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Freeman, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-28.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

Mr. Daniel voted against adopting of this item.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-28.

- 18. Consideration of resolution opposing the proposed Hidden Creeks Estates Project (CPC-2005-6656-AD-GPA-ZC-CU-DA-ZAD/ENV-2005-6657-EIR) and authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding said project in Browns Canyon watershed, County of Los Angeles.**

The staff report for this item was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Rosen and Ms. Mikos.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 13-30.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 13-30.

- 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 regarding pending and/or potential litigation: Pending litigation – *Kruells v. La Vina Homeowners Association, Case No. GC035668; Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Whittier, et al., Case No. BS138796, and related cases; Morris v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case***

No. BS127089; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS129503; City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and California Coastal Commission, Case No. BS129222 Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, et al. Case No. BS 121820; City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Case No. BS121650, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu, and related actions, Case No. SC 092212.

The Chairperson convened the closed session at 10:40 p.m. and announced that the following item would be discussed: *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Case No. BS127089.*

The Chairperson reconvened the open session at 10:56 p.m. and announced that instructions were given to staff.

20. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on December 9, 2013.

There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:56 p.m. in memory of Dave Brown.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

IRMA MUÑOZ
Chairperson