

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

July 28, 2014

1. Call to order.

The 411th meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson Linda Parks, at 7:30 p.m. on July 28, 2014 at the Los Angeles River Center & Gardens, Los Angeles, and the Natural Resources Agency offices, Sacramento, California.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

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

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee Members.

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

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

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chairperson announced that the following legislative participants were present: Louise Rishoff; Tim Pershing, and Vickere Murphy.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of June 2, 2014 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 2, 2014 were approved as submitted.

6. Reports.

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

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Brown; Ms. Freeman; Mr. Lange, and Ms. Rosen.

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:

Michael Chastain, on matters not on the agenda.

Lois Becker, on item 16.

Mark Stratan, on item 16.

Tony Tucci, on item 16.

Alison Simar, on item 16.

9. Consent Calendar:

(a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Los Angeles County General Plan Update.**

(b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Calabasas on the Notice of Preparation for the Canyon Oaks Project, 4790 Las Virgenes Road, City of Calabasas.**

(c) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on Notice of Preparation for the Homestead South project (VTT Map No. 060678), Santa Clara River, unincorporated Santa Clarita area.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

Ms. Maurer was noted as abstaining from her vote on the Consent Calendar.

On motion of Ms. Freeman, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 14-33, 14-34, and 14-35.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution Nos. 14-33, 14-34, and 14-35.

[Item 11 was considered prior to item 10.]

11. Consideration of resolution approving the preliminary FY 2014-2015 budget of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The staff report for this item was presented by Jeff Jones, Assistant Financial Officer for the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Cash.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Corridori, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-36.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-36.

10. Presentation on lesser known inter-mountain range habitat linkages in the Ventura County portion of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone, Callegus Creek, and Santa Clara River.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos and Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, Mr. Mishler, and Ms. Maurer.

12. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public and programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.

The staff report for this item was presented by Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer of Interpretation, for the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Cheadle.

Comments were made Mr. Cash; Mr. Szymanski; Mr. Pettit; Mr. Sap; the Executive Director, and the Chairperson.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by Ms. Lethbridge.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Lange, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-37.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

Mr. Cash was noted as voting against adoption of the resolution.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 14-37.

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of land, air, and

water resources, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public and programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-38.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

Mr. Cash was noted as voting against adopting this resolution.

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 14-38.

- 14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to Clockworks, a non profit 501(c)3 organization for purchase of the Our Malibu Beaches cell phone application for the continued promotion of public access to public beaches.**

This item was postponed to a later date.

- 15. Consideration of resolution authorizing assignment of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Proposition A Third Supervisorial District funds to (a) Mountains Restoration Trust Cold Creek Old Topanga Acquisition project; (b) Trust for Public Land-Malibu Creek Watershed Phase II acquisition project; and (c) Trust for Public Land Upper Ramirez Canyon Phase III acquisition project; unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 14-40.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-40.

16. Consideration of resolution supporting Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance Zone) Wildlife Corridor Ordinance (CF 14-0518 Koretz), City of Los Angeles.

The staff report for this item was presented 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. 14-41.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

A roll-call vote was administered.

On motion of Mr. Szymanski, duly seconded, the Conservancy unanimously adopted Resolution No. 14-42.

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 – *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*, Case No. BC448511; *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu*, and related actions, Case No. SC092212, and *Prop A Protective Association, LLC v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al.*, Case No. BS145771.

No closed session was held.

18. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on August 25, 2014.

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There being no further business, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m. in memory of Burt Elliott.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP HON. ASLA
Executive Director

LINDA PARKS
Chairperson