

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

April 25, 2005

1. Call to order.

The 300th joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chairperson Elizabeth Cheadle at 7:35 p.m. on February 28, 2005 at Renaissance Agoura Hills Hotel, 30100 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

2. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Linda Parks, Hal Ross, Ron Schafer, Jonathan Zasloff, Vice Chair, and Elizabeth Cheadle, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Woody Smeck, and Jerome C. Daniel. The following members were present subsequent to roll call: Ed Begley, Jr. and Bryan Cash.

3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Caroline Brown, Dave Brown, Michael Cacciotti, Ed Corridori, Rick Gould, Michael Hurley, Mark Johnson, Alan Kishbaugh, George Lange, Roseann Mikos, Linda Palmer, Barry Read, Paul Rockenstein, Dennis Seider, Lorraine Slattery, Nancy Stephens, Timothy Wendler, Garen Yegparian, Anthony Portantino, Vice Chair and Don Robinson, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Claudia Bill De La Peña, Bruce Saito, and Liane Weintraub. The following member was present subsequent to roll call: Marc Stirdivant.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Staff Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Walt Young, Chief of Operations, and Tracy Dockery, Staff Services Manager.

4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.

The Chair announced that the following legislative members were present: Laura Plotkin, Ernestine Moore, Louise Rishoff. The following legislative participants were absent: Gloria Romero, Mary Sue Maurer, George Magallanes, and Nicole Kern.

5. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of February 28, 2005 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of February 28, 2005 were approved as submitted.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy and the Advisory Committee received verbal reports from Elizabeth Cheadle, Chairperson; Ron Schafer, State Parks; Jody Noiron, Forest Service; Michael Berger, Chairperson of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Mikos.

8. 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:

Liz Blackwelder, representing La Cañada Flintridge Trails Council, on item 13.

Mary E. Barrie, representing La Cañada Flintridge Trails Council, on item 13.

Emily Stork, representing herself, on item 13.

Eric Edmunds, representing Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, on items 15 and 19.

Steve Hess, representing Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, on item 9(a).

Colleen Holmes, representing Cornell Preservation Organization, on item 9(a).

Dianne Domingo-Foraste, representing Equestrian Trails Inc., on Arroyo Trail System.

Ruth Gerson, representing Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, on item 9(a).

9. Consent Calendar:

- (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Triangle Ranch project, Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 52419 and cup 97-178 east and west**

of Kanan Road and Cornell Road, unincorporated Agoura Hills.

- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the County of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for Tentative Tract No. 52909 in the Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor, unincorporated Calabasas.**

At the request of Mr. Corridori, item 9(a) was pulled from the consent calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 05-029.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 05-029 was unanimously adopted.

- 9(a) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Triangle Ranch project, Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 52419 and cup 97-178 east and west of Kanan Road and Cornell Road, unincorporated Agoura Hills.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

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

Comments were made by Ms. Slattery.

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

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

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. 05-028.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-028 was unanimously adopted.

10. Presentation of watershed protection and restoration projects.

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

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Plotkin.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Schafer.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

11. Report to Conservancy on status of bond-funded grants.

Comments were made by the Chief Deputy Director.

12. Report on status of storm damage repair and restoration.

The Conservancy received an oral report from the Chief of Construction and Chief of Developed Resources.

13. Discussion and possible action regarding Conservancy position on sale of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California property in Hahamongna, Pasadena.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Wendler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-030(a).

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Ms. Noiron.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Robinson.

Comments were made by Mr. Hurley.

Comments were made by Mr. Portantino.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-030(a) was unanimously adopted.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority contingent upon approval by the Attorney General for Project Planning and Design services.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Yegparian.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gould.

Comments were made by Ms. Parks.

Comments were made by Mr. Begley.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-030.

Mr. Gould was noted as abstaining from this item.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Schafer, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-030 was unanimously adopted.

15. Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of the Westridge/Upper Mandeville trailhead to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Yegparian.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Kishbaugh.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-031.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Ross, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-031 was unanimously adopted.

16. Consideration of resolution amending scope of work of Proposition 40 Soka University acquisition grant (SMM-04-78) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority contingent upon approval by the Attorney General to specify funding for initial site improvements necessary for public safety and resource protection.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by the Chief of Operations.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Corridori.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Cash.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Mr. Schafer.

Comments were made by Mr. Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-032.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-032 was unanimously adopted.

- 17. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority contingent upon approval by the Attorney General to acquire approximately 68-acres of surplus property owned by Los Angeles County in the Sylvia Park and Garapito Canyon areas of Topanga Canyon.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

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

Comments were made by Mr. Schafer.

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

Questions were propounded by Ms. Palmer.

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

Comments were made by Mr. Schafer.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Read, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-033.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-033 was unanimously adopted.

- 18. Consideration of resolution authorizing the assignment and designation of a grant of Federal Highway Administration funds for improvements to two Hansen Dam parking lots to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for administration, design, and construction of the project, Lakeview Terrace.**

Questions were propounded by Ms. Slattery.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Slattery, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-034.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Parks, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-034 was unanimously adopted.

19. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for design and construction of a Westridge/Upper Mandeville parking lot and entry.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seider, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 05-35.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Begley, duly seconded, Resolution No. 05-35 was unanimously adopted.

20. 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: Potential litigation – Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority: Nervik v. State of California; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al. Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, and Conference with legal counsel - potential litigation.

No closed session was held.

21. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on June 27, 2005. There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:28 p.m.

SMMC Minutes
April 25, 2005
Page 10

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP
Executive Director

ELIZABETH CHEADLE
Chairperson