

**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 7~~ July 9, 2007

**1. Call to order.**

The 324<sup>th</sup> 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 7:34 p.m. on July 7, 2007 at King Gillette Ranch, 26800 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas.

**2. Roll Call of Conservancy.**

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Bryan Cash, Linda Parks, Elva Yañez, Woody Smeck, Ron Schafer, Vice Chairperson, and Elizabeth Cheadle, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: James Berkus, and Jerome C. Daniel. The following member arrived subsequent to roll call: Antonio Gonzales.

**3. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.**

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Caroline Brown, Dave Brown, Mary Sue Maurer, Mark Johnson, Alan Kishbaugh, Lawren Markle, John McCord, Linda Palmer, Barry Read, Paul Rockenstein, Wendy-Sue Rosen, William Koehler, Marc Stirdivant, Timothy Wendler, and Don Robinson, Chairperson. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Richard Gould, Roseann Mikos, Nancy Stephens, Liane Weintraub, and George Lange, Vice Chairperson. The following members arrived subsequent to roll call: Michael Cacciotti, Dennis Seider, and Garen Yegparian.

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, Deputy Executive Officer; Amy Lethbridge, Chief of Interpretation; Dan Tholund, Chief of Facilities and Maintenance; Jeff Jones, Assistant Financial Officer; James Yeramian, Board Secretary, and Monica Costello, Executive Assistant.

**4. Introduction of Legislative Participants or their staff.**

The Chair announced that the following legislative participants were present: Louise Rishoff and Laura Plotkin.

**5. Approval of minutes.**

The minutes of June 5, 2007 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of June 5, 2007 were approved as submitted.

**6. Reports.**

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Chair; Mr. Smeck, representing the National Park Service; the Executive Director, and Michael Berger, representing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

[Mr. Cacciotti arrived at 7:39 p.m.]

[Mr. Seider arrived at 7:43 p.m.]

**7. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.**

Comments were made by Mr. Brown.

[Messrs. Gonzalez and Yegparian arrived at 8:01 p.m.]

Comments were made by Messrs. Cacciotti and Cash.

Comments were made by Ms. Rishoff.

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

The following person addressed the Conservancy:

Hal Helsley, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Mary Weisbrock, Save Open Space Santa Monica Mountains, on matters not on the agenda.

Aubrey White, the City Project, on matters not on the agenda.

Dwayne Wilson, the Wildwoods Foundation, on matters not on the agenda.

Omar Macias, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Rosey Garcia, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Raul Macias, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Jim Friedl, representing the Conejo Recreation and Park District, on all grant items.  
Michael Markus, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.  
Robert Sengry, Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
David Davis, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.  
Charles Thomas, Executive Director of Outward Bound, on item 11(b)2.  
Elena Bayington, Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
Steve Bucksbaum, Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
Linda Hope, Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
Paul Thomas, Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
Donna McFeeders, Chairman of the Board for Outward Bound Adventures, on item 11(b)2.  
Margot Fuer, Save Open Space, on matters not on the agenda.  
Fran Bibian, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

**9. Consent Calendar:**

- (a) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Caltrans on the Interstate-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study and Section 4(f) Evaluation.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the Metro Universal Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH# 2007061078, Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plan Area.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution adopting the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority FY 2007-2008 Budget.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution amending Resolution No. 07-13 to change the grant recipient to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District for the acquisition of APNS 648-0-070-060, 648-0-200-020, and 648-0-183-050, unincorporated Ventura County.**

Items 9(a) and 9(b) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 07-50, and 07-51.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Schafer, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 07-50 and 07-51.

*\* The following item was heard subsequent to item 14.*

9. (a) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Caltrans on the Interstate-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study and Section 4(f) Evaluation.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Seider.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-48.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Schafer, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-48.

*\* The following item was heard subsequent to item 14.*

9. (b) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles on the Notice of Preparation for the Metro Universal Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH# 2007061078, Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plan Area.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Kishbaugh.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-49.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Schafer, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-49.

**10. Presentation on scope and objective of Proposition 84 as it pertains to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy**

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Yañez.

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

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Yegparian and Gonzalez.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

**11. Implementation of Proposition 84:**

**(a) Urban Greening and Restoration**

**1. Staff Introduction**

Comments were made by Ms. Barbara Romero and Ms. Stephanie Landregan.

**2. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for exercising additive alternates to the base bid for the Vista Hermosa Park and funding additions and upgrades to the landscaping, Los Angeles.**

Comments were made by Ms. Collins.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-52.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gonzalez, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-52.

Comments were made by the Chair and Ms. Parks.

**(b) Watershed Protection Activities through Enhanced Interpretation**

**1. Staff Introduction**

Comments were made by Ms. Amy Lethbridge and Ms. Jamie Cabral.

2. **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 as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.**

Comments were made by Mr. Brown.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Cash.

Comments were made by Ms. Lethbridge.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Gonzales.

Comments were made by Ms. Lethbridge.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Rosen, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-53.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Yañez, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-53.

(c) **Planning for Watershed Projects Implementation and Public Participation**

1. **Staff Introduction**

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

2. **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay.**

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Cash and Gonzalez.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, the Chair, Ms. Yañez, and Mr. Smeck.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-54.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-54.

(d) **Resource Protection and Restoration**

**1. Staff Introduction**

Comments were made by Mr. Walt Young.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Johnson.

Comments were made by Mr. Walt Young.

**2. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the protection of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay watersheds, including those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property or natural resources and those actions necessary to allow continued use and enjoyment of property and natural resources.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

Comments were made by the Mr. Young.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Smeck, Cash, and Schafer.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Parks.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-55.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-55.

Mr. Cash was noted as opposing.

- 3. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the purchase of capital assets to be used in the protection and restoration of natural resources, including projects for the control of erosion, control and elimination of exotic species, prescribed burning, and fuel hazard reduction.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-56.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-56.

- 4. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the protection and restoration of natural and developed resources by removal of invasive plant species, reduction of hazardous fire-fuel loads, and erosion protection.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Yegparian, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-57.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-57.

5. **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the preservation, protection and restoration to promote the continued safe use and enjoyment of parks along the Los Angeles River.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a program of preservation, protection and restoration to insure the continued use and enjoyment of natural and developed resources in the Upper Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the preservation, protection and restoration of Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-60.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-60.

8. **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the preservation, protection and restoration of King Gillette Ranch, Calabassas.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Kishbaugh, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-61.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Cash, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-61.

- 12. Consideration of a resolution supporting SCA 12 introduced by Senators Torlakson and Yee, Coauthor: Senator Kuehl. A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Section 6 of Article XIII D thereof, relating to local government finance.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

- 13. Consideration of resolution adopting the draft preliminary FY 2007-2008 budget of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

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. 07-63.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Schafer, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-63.

Messrs. Seider and Koehler were noted as abstaining.

- 14. Implementation of Coastal Slope Trail**

- 1. Staff Introduction**

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

- 2. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu area. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A) of the Government Code.)***

Questions were propounded by Mr. Seider.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 07-64.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Smeck, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 07-64.

- 15. 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, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Malibu, and related actions, Potential litigation: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. Seven Arrows/Little Dolphins by the Sea.***

The Chair a Closed Session at 11:38 p.m. to discuss the matter of Potential litigation: *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. Seven Arrows/Little Dolphins by the Sea.*

The Chair reconvened the Open Session at 11:48 p.m. and announced that the matter of Potential litigation: *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. Seven Arrows/Little Dolphins by the Sea* had been discussed.

**16. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.**

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on ~~July 9~~ **August 27**, 2007.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP  
Executive Director

ELIZABETH A. CHEADLE  
Chairperson