

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA)
January 17, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Arrighi at approximately 1:35 p.m. The meeting was held at: The Garvey Center in Rosemead.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Herlinda Chico (for Supervisor Hahn)
Ms. Debra Mendelsohn (for Supervisor Barger)
Mr. Roberto Uranga (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Mr. Julian Juarez (for Mr. Pestrella)
Mr. Vincent Chang (for Supervisor Solis)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Frank Colonna (Rivers & Mountains Conservancy)
Ms. Lacey Johnson (for Supervisor Ridley-Thomas)

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer
Dena Williams, Board Secretary
Salian Garcia, RMC AGPA
Nicole Law, Fiscal Analyst
Michelle Tarian, Project Manager
Alex Linz, Project Manager
Sally Gee, Project Manager
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Vincent Chang, representing Supervisor Solis, was sworn into office.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes were from October 25, 2018 meeting.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Uranga seconded the motion. Board members voted. There were 4 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. Minutes were approved.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

This item was moved to the end of the agenda so that Vice Chair Arrighi could sign all of the resolutions. Vice Chair Arrighi nominated Debra Mendelsohn for Chair. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Vice Chair Arrighi nominated Herlinda Chico for Vice Chair. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

9. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION

This item was presented by Doug Houston of Houston Magnani and Associates.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

10. LIAISON & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Executive Officer stated that AB65 was introduced during this new session and is waiting for a committee to be assigned to it. Mr. Stanley also stated that this bill authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,000,000,000 for financing a drought, water, parks climate, coastal protection including projects that address ocean acidification, sea level rise or habitat restoration and protection.

Mr. Stanley mentioned that for SB45, this bill would authorize the issuance of bonds to reduce climate impacts on urban areas, reduce wildfire risk and create healthy forest and watersheds.

Mr. Stanley stated that Senator Kamala Harris introduced legislation to expand the San Gabriel National Monument that would expand outdoor recreation opportunities and protect habitat and wildlife along the San Gabriel Mountain foothills and San Gabriel River calling for designating the natural parts of the San Gabriel River as a "wild and scenic" river.

Mr. Stanley briefly mentioned that WCA staff will be participating in an upcoming Strategic Visioning Session and will have continuous updates to the board as they move forward with strategic planning.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Duck Farm project received certification from the State of California to finalize the RMC's gap funding award of \$1.2 million to complete construction. WCA staff will draft a grant application for Proposition 68 funds for the Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Lower Los Angeles River-Advisory Group will hold its next quarterly meeting on February 20th at the Los Angeles County Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra and it has been requested that a presentation of the Parque Dos Rios project as a pilot presentation be

presented.

Mr. Stanley stated that the Eagle Scout project to install a kiosk and the dedication sign is scheduled for January 26th and encouraged everyone to attend if they so desired.

Mr. Stanley stated that WCA applied for funding from Caltrans ATP, however, the initial staff selections for ATP projects for Cycle 4 does not include the roundabout project. There will be one more opportunity to be chosen through SCAG with a 50/50 chance in being awarded.

Mr. Stanley stated that a multi-agency homeless encampment clean-up was conducted at the South Gate Habitat Restoration Project on December 3rd and 4th including Caltrans concentrating on their drainage easement while WCA's contractor cleared the rest of the property. For the time being, the area is being patrolled to ensure the camps do not reestablish and WCA will enter into the Construction Contract with CCLB once the Caltrans work is completed.

Mr. Stanley stated that there has been some movement with the Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space project. Project manager Alex Linz stated that the City of San Dimas held a bid day on December 20th and awarded trail construction in early January and BlueGreen Consulting received their Notice to Proceed with the landscape design and the City is expected to implement landscaping while trail construction is ongoing.

Mr. Stanley concluded his report by stating that the River Ranger Program several Non-profit organization have been contracted to conduct public outreach and the River Ranger Plan should be completed by March 30th. There were no questions from the board.

11. EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nicole Law stated that the FY 2018/2019 budget with balances as of December 31, 2018 was attached as Exhibit A for view. Ms. Law also mentioned that the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements had not been received at the time of this report.

Ms. Law gave a brief synopsis of the revenues received and expenditures made. There were no questions from the board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

12. FUND BALANCE REPORT

13. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE EAST FORK SUSTAINABLE RIVER ACCESS PROJECT.

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A PRE-ENGINEERED RESTROOM BUILDING FROM ROMTEC FOR THEDUCK FARM PHASE 1A PROJECT.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NORTH EAST TREES TO PROVIDE FIELD A/E SERVICES FOR PARQUE DOS RIOS.

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BLUE GREEN CONSULTING TO PROVIDE FIELD A/E SERVICES FOR DUCK FARM PHASE 1A IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT.

Board Member Mendelsohn motioned to approve items 12 through 16. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

REGULAR CALENDAR**17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019 ANNUAL BUDGET.**

Nicole Law stated that significant changes from planned events warranted a mid-year update to the current fiscal year budget. Ms. Law also stated that the updated Fiscal Year 2018/2019 budget was attached as Exhibit A.

Ms. Law stated the projects that had significant changes, stated the personnel expenses increases, and stated the General Operational expenses that were modified.

Ms. Law stated that the overall proposed amended FY 18/19 budget decreases WCA Grants and Special Projects Capital Revenue by \$2,279,911 and Capital Outlay Expenses by \$2,029,870 but increases personnel expenses by \$22,958 and general operational expenses by \$6,119.

There were no questions from the board. Mr. Stanley introduced Jeremy Munns to the Board as a new employee of WCA.

Board Member Chico motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE BILLABLE RATES FOR FY2018/2019.

Nicole Law stated that there were changes made with staff and therefore it was necessary to update the Billable Rates for FY2018/2019. Ms. Law stated that this action follows a Standard Rate Plan and policies that will allocate the WCA's staffing and operational costs in an efficient and effective manner consistent with the fiscal year budget and funding source requirements for the remainder of FY 2018/2019 and there will be no direct fiscal impact.

There were no questions from the board.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Mendelsohn seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

19. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BLUE GREEN CONSULTING FOR EAST FORK SUSTAINABLE RIVER ACCESS PROJECT DESIGN SERVICES.

Michelle Tarian stated that the consultants who were in process of finalizing the Maintenance project drawing set provided a proposal to expand their design services scope to include the permanent stair design and this work will complete the design and permitting phase necessary to implement the Sustainable Site Access Model of constructing a single river-friendly public access point to the river and river friendly amenities.

Ms. Tarian also stated that this action will authorize a contract amendment to the Master Agreement with BlueGreen Consulting of an additional \$15,000 in held contingency, for a total

not to exceed value of \$162,270.

Board Member Mendelsohn asked if parking spaces were going to be reconfigured to the overlook and also if charging stations for electric vehicles would be added. Mr. Stanley answered that staff is looking into adding the technology of charging stations up there but that parking was not included. Ms. Mendelsohn asked it if was strictly for the stairs. Mr. Stanley answered yes. Ms. Enos added that it would include the formalization of the parking but not adding any parking spaces.

There were no further questions from the board.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

20. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY AINs 8636-013-005, 006, 012 AND 8636-016-012 KNOWN AS EASLEY CANYON FROM GLENDORA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE CITY OF GLENDORA.

Alex Linz stated that the Glendora Community Conservancy is considering donating approximately 130 open space acres, known as the Easley Canyon Preserve to the WCA which is located just above the foothills in the City of Glendora.

Mr. Linz also stated that due diligence activities have been done by WCA staff and legal advisor and have found that the non-monetary exceptions in the report do not pose significant risks to accepting the property.

Mr. Linz concluded that the Easley Canyon property is anticipated to require a simple management regimen, low maintenance costs and will align with the developing foothill Acquisition Master Plan, there will be a no cost transfer of Grant Deed from grantor, and it currently requires no ranger services or other patrolling.

Board Member Mendelsohn asked if there was any damage from the fires to the property. Mr. Linz answered there was very minimal damage to the property and nothing significant.

There were no further questions from the board.

Board Member Mendelsohn motioned to approve this item. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

21 CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9, THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM: SAVE OUR ACCESS – SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS V. WCA, ET AL., LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 18STCP02904.

This item went into Closed Session at approximately 2:35pm and ended at approximately 2:49pm. Deputy Attorney General stated that the Board has been updated and the Board provided direction.

22. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND ACCEPT FUNDS FROM RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER CONFLUENCE WITH CATTLE CANYON IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Mr. Stanley stated that this item is a request from WCA to the RMC for the amount of \$79,000 for the Cattle Canyon Improvements Project to cover costs related to the matter of Save Our Access-San Gabriel Mountains v. WCA.

There were no questions from the board.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Mendelsohn seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

23. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO 1) RATIFY A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON (RWG) TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION; AND, 2) AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS TO BOTH BLUE GREEN CONSULTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATES (ESA) FOR AS NEEDED CONSULTATION SERVICES RELATED TO THE MATTER OF SAVE OUR ACCESS – SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS V. WCA, ET AL., LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 18STCP02904.

Mr. Stanley stated that this item was recommending the WCA Board to ratify a professional services contract with the law firm Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG) to provide legal representation and to award a professional services contract to both BlueGreen Consulting and Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for as needed consultation services related to Save Our Access-San Gabriel Mountains v. WCA.

There were no questions from the board.

Board Member Uranga motioned to approve this item. Board Member Chico seconded the motion. Board Voted. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays & 0 Abstentions.

24. STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF PURSUANT TO SECTION 54954.2(A) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.

25. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 1:30 pm.

21. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Arrighi at approximately 2:55 pm.

X

Herlinda Chico
Vice Chair

X

Dena Williams
Board Secretary