

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY  
HELD AT THE**

**Central Basin Municipal Water District**  
6252 Telegraph Road  
Commerce, CA

**December 17, 2014 - 9:00 A.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority Meeting was held at Central Basin Municipal Water District 6252 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA on December 17, 2014, and was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by President Robert Apodaca.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

Members Present:

Robert Apodaca, President, Central Basin Municipal Water District  
Russ Guiney, LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Dan Arrighi, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
Sam Pedroza, Stakeholder Committee  
Anthony Fellow, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Mark Stanley, Interim Executive Officer  
Dena Tarighi, Board Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Thompson, Fiscal Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hugo Garcia, SGRDCA Consultant  
Dr. Richard Shope, Youth Science Center

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 4 was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Arrighi, seconded by Board Member Fellow.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER**

**AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS HELD JUNE 26, 2014.**

There were no corrections noted.

Item 5 was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Arrighi, seconded by Board Member Pedroza.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Oldling, Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area  
Henry Pedregon, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation  
Steven Griffith  
Guadalupe Rodriguez, Friends of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area  
Tim Poyorena Miguel, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation

**7. ECOVOICES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Dr. Richard Shope made general statements concerning the value of the EcoVoices Program and the Discovery Center Project. Mr. Hugo Garcia gave an update about the EcoVoices Program and how it is progressing throughout the year and how there have been many schools involved with the program.

**8. REGULAR CALENDAR**

**A. Executive Officer Update**

The Executive Officer re-assured the Board that there would be ongoing updates on the EcoVoices Program presented to them going forward.

**B. Presentation, discussion, and acceptance of audit report for year ended June 30, 2013.**

The Executive Officer explained how this item needed to be voted on again because of a correction that was needed on the last agenda when this item was first presented.

Item 8B was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Fellow, seconded by Board Member Pedroza.

**C. Consideration of a resolution to ratify acceptance of funding and services provided by Colibri Strategies for outreach, education, and strategic planning.**

The Executive Officer explained how the Authority engaged Colibri Strategies for utilization of the agencies expertise and consulting services to secure the necessary changes to the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) framework agreements and gain support from key Authority stakeholders. Mr. Stanley stated that the recommendation is to accept funding and ratify approval of the Agreement and Amendment in an amount not to exceed \$19,500.00.

Item 8C was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Pedroza, seconded by Board Member Arrighi.

**D. Consideration of a resolution authorizing a contract with Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP for auditing services.**

The Executive Officer explained that the Joint Powers Authority agreement for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority requires an annual audit of the accounting for the Authority. He went on to explain the Authority issued a Request for Proposals in August 2014 and received three proposals. As a result, Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP received the highest points from the evaluation team and therefore was selected to perform under contract all fieldwork required to complete the general financial audit work for the Authority.

Item 8D was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Guiney, seconded by Board Member Arrighi.

**E. Consideration of a resolution for selection of San Gabriel Discovery Center construction and design preferred alternative.**

The Executive Officer proposed that the board approve construction and design preferred alternative for project sequencing of elements for which funding is currently available and he also presented the revised work plan submitted by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

Item 8E was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Guiney, seconded by Board Member Pedroza.

**F. Consideration of a resolution to ratify the application and approval of acceptance from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for First Supervisorial District Prop A funding for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Project.**

The Executive Officer explained the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a grant to the San Gabriel River Discovery Center in the amount of \$3,000,000 to be utilized towards the completion of Discovery Center capital spending project which includes a youth employment plan. He further explained that the acceptance of the \$3,000,000 grant will amend the FY 2014/15 budget to include these additional grant revenues and corresponding budgeted project expenditures.

Item 8F was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Pedroza, seconded by Board Member Guiney.

**G. Consideration of a resolution to adopt the updated work plan as approved by the Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Board on October 20, 2014.**

The Executive Officer recommended that the board adopt the updated work plan approved by the Los Angeles County Regional Water Board for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP).

Item 8G was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Fellow, seconded by Board Member Pedroza.

**H. Consideration of a resolution to authorize entering into a contract for Professional services with the Youth Science Center for River Exploration and Development program activities.**

The Executive recommended that the board authorize entering in a contract for professional services with the Youth Science Center for an amount not to exceed \$78,176 for the EcoVoices programming services beginning December 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2014

Item 8H was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Pedroza, seconded by Board Member Fellow.

**I. Consideration and approval of a resolution authorizing Payment of Demands to the SGRDC Authority account.**

The Executive Officer presented the Board with the invoices and expenses that need to be paid during this time.

Item 8I was unanimously approved on motion of Board Member Fellow, seconded by Board Member Pedroza.

**J. Receive and file year-to-date Budget and Expenditure Reports for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.**

The Executive Officer briefly discussed the revenues and expenditure reports for FY 2013/14.

**K. Receive and file Budget and Expenditure Reports for Fiscal year 2014-2015.**

The Executive Officer briefly discussed the revenues and expenditure reports for FY 2014/15.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code**

Board Member Pedroza and Board Member Guiney both made comments pertaining to the grand work that is taking place at the Youth Science Center and thanked Dr. Shope and Mr. Garcia for their efforts in running the program. Both Board Members also stated that they look forward to hearing the results of next year's report and are certain the program will flourish in years to come.

**B. Future agenda items**

The Executive Officer stated that he will be bringing forward some alternatives for moving the Capital project forward.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next Board meeting will be held (tentatively) in March and may start having meetings every other month. To be determined at a later time.

**11. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Chair Apodaca adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:42 a.m.



Dena Tarighi, Secretary



Bob Apodaca, Chair

