

June 04, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Administrative Support for the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority

The Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) was established as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) by the County of Los Angeles (County) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservation (SMMC) in 1999. Its goals were to provide a comprehensive program to acquire, expand, and improve open space, natural habitat, and recreational opportunities within Baldwin Hills and other natural and recreational areas within the Second Supervisorial District. The BHRCA has improved connections between Baldwin Hills and other natural and recreational areas, including Ballona Creek, enabled the conservation of natural habitat restoration as well as the environmental enhancement of the Baldwin Hills area and protection of the Ballona Creek watershed and water quality. In addition, the Stoneview Nature Center and the Park 2 Playa Trail projects were recently completed. These projects reflect the importance of providing recreation, restoration, and protection of wildlife habitat while also providing educational experiences.

In November 2023, the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (Conservancy) replaced SMMC as a member of the BHRCA. Covering about 70 square miles of the Southern Ballona Creek and Upper Dominguez Watersheds, the Conservancy serves densely populated areas, including Unincorporated Los Angeles County, Inglewood, Culver City, City of Los Angeles, Lawndale, El Segundo, and portions of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, and Hawthorne. Leveraging its expertise in land acquisition and preservation, the Conservancy assists in creating much-needed recreational spaces in Los Angeles.

The BHRCA requires staff to carry out the purposes for which it was created, including administrative support services. Section 10.4 of the JPA agreement entered into by and between the County and the Conservancy provides that the County may loan employees to the BHRCA to implement its purposes. Additionally, the BHRCA has adopted a 2023-2024 budget that includes

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funding for a new agreement for future staffing services with a member agency. The County plays a crucial role in supporting the BHRCA's mission on enhancing the last remaining undeveloped open spaces in the Los Angeles urban area. The BHRCA is prepared to pay the County for these administrative services.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Authorize the Executive Officer of the Board to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) and the County to provide staffing services to the BHRCA for a minimum term of one year at an annual amount of \$60,000 to be paid to the County; and take all further actions necessary and appropriate to implement the terms and conditions of the MOU including but not limited to executing amendments, updating provisions, extending the term, modifying the scope of work to the MOU, and terminating the MOU for convenience.

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