

*Regional Conservation Authority*

**RECOMMENDATION REGARDING COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
CRITERIA REFINEMENT**

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**Staff Contact:**

**Joe Richards  
Deputy Executive Director  
(951) 955-9700**

**Background:**

The County of Riverside is evaluating alternative properties for future facilities sites. One of the properties, located north of Ironwood Avenue near Redlands Boulevard, is within Criteria Cell No. 836, and is called out for 100% conservation. The County is requesting that the RCA undertake a criteria refinement to adjust the conservation configuration and allow the opportunity for development of the site. The County has committed to reimburse the RCA for all costs associated with the refinement process.

The Board, at their July 24 meeting, adopted a policy regarding criteria refinements. It indicates that the RCA may undertake a criteria refinement on behalf of a permittee, if the permittee agrees to cover the costs. Staff believes that the refinement, if warranted, will result in a modest adjustment to the reserve configuration in this area and is recommending that the Board authorize staff to prepare the criteria refinement on the County's behalf.

Dudek & Associates, RCA Consultant, will prepare a biological study that examines the current criteria and evaluates replacement land, to insure that it meets the test for "biologically equivalent or superior" conservation. The Board will review the study at a public hearing and certify to its adequacy and objectivity. The determination of the Board will then be forwarded to the County for action, prior to or concurrent with development approval.

**Staff Recommendation:**

That the RCA Board of Directors authorize staff to undertake a criteria refinement for property within Cell No. 836, on behalf of the County of Riverside.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
In Fiscal Year 2007 Budget: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Cost: \$ Actual Cost Recovery Annual Cost: \$
Source of Funds: County of Riverside	Budget Adjustment: No From To
Approved by: <i>Honey Bernas</i>	Date: September 6, 2006