



WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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Executive Committee

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Jeff Stone at 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room C in the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Fifth Floor, in Riverside, California 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Eugene Montanez
Robin Lowe
Marion Ashley
Jeff Stone
Dale Stubblefield
Gary Thomasian

Committee Member Absent

John Tavaglione

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Committee Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, requested that Agenda Item No. 9, *"Approval of Policies and Procedures for Negotiation of HANS Application"*, be continued to the April 2, 2007 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (ASHLEY/STUBBLEFIELD) to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006, January 19, 2007, and February 26, 2007 meetings as presented.

7. FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Honey Bernas presented the FY 2006-07 Second Quarter Financial Reports, including a Cash Balance Summary, Financial Statement Overviews and detailed financial statements for the Operations, Land Acquisition, and Management and Monitoring Departments.

Joe Richards, Deputy Executive Director, provided a status on land acquisition. He said that it is expected that the total revenue for land acquisition, including grants, will be \$69 million. Acquisition of 9,400 acres totaling \$70 million was processed by January 31, 2007, and there is an additional \$19 million acquisition to be processed. Therefore, \$25 million from the Cash Balance will be used towards acquisition for this fiscal year.

Tom Mullen, Executive Director, added that as shown in staff report's attachment, the land acquisition administration was budgeted at 12% and RCA is currently at 6.2%. In response to a question on budget forecasting, Tom Mullen stated that staff is very conservative in its budgeting on a fiscal year basis. As the Committee might recall, RCA budgeted 35% below the anticipated revenues for this year.

Chairman Stone added that there is a 27% decrease in building permit fees. Also, not all of the revenues collected may be reflected as it takes some time to distribute the collected fees to the agency. The bright side is that RCA has already completed 20% of the required acquisition for the life of the Plan so RCA is ahead of its objective. The acquired reserve land to date shows staff aggressiveness and does not warrant criticism from resource agencies.

Marion Ashley agreed and added that RCA, only in its third year, is showing great strides towards acquisition of reserve land.

M/S/C (MONTANEZ/ASHLEY) to:

- 1) Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2006/07 Second Quarter Financial Report; and***
- 2) Forward this item to the April 2, 2007 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

8. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TO PROVIDE STAFFING AND SERVICES

Honey Bernas informed the Executive Committee that the proposed agreement with the County of Riverside will update the RCA organizational and reporting structure and services as well as amend the agreement term from March 12, 2007 to April 2, 2012 with automatic term renewals. It includes a \$1,076.00 per employee annual fee for County Human Resources Department services.

Tom Mullen stated that the agreement also allows for modifications, if agreeable to both agencies.

M/S/C (ASHLEY/MONTANEZ) to:

- 1) Approve the draft agreement with the County of Riverside to provide staffing and services;***
- 2) Authorize staff to continue to negotiate with the County of Riverside; and***
- 3) Forward this item to the April 2, 2007 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

9. APPROVAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATION OF HANS APPLICATIONS

M/S/C (ASHLEY/LOWE) to present this item directly to the RCA Board of Directors on May 7, 2007.

10. AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE SANTA ANA WATERSHED AUTHORITY

M/S/C (LOWE/MONTANEZ) to:

- 1) Recommend approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the Santa Ana Watershed Association to the RCA Board of Directors; and***
- 2) Authorize staff to agendize this matter for the April 2, 2007 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

11. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING TEMPLATE CRITERIA REFINEMENT POLICY FOR PERMITTEES

Joe Richards informed the Committee that this item is related to a previous Executive Committee action last July regarding the RCA undertaking criteria refinement policies. The proposed policy would clarify member agencies' responsibilities in processing criteria refinements.

Bob Edmonds, attorney representing property owners, voiced his concerns to the Executive Committee regarding the need of stakeholders' participation in the development of the proposed criteria refinement policy and on the 120-day negotiation period of HANS applications as well as his belief that the proposed policies appear to be contrary to the MSHCP with mechanisms in place involving stakeholders to work out acquisition policies.

Tom Mullen commented that: 1) Regarding the 120-day negotiation period under the HANS acquisition process, staff met and reviewed the proposal with the Executive Directors of Building Industry Association, Endangered Habitat League, as well as with Ed Sauls, a consultant that deals with land acquisitions. This item is being continued to May 7, 2007 to provide Legal Counsel and staff additional time to review comments that were received; and, 2) The procedures outlined by staff for criteria refinement, the set of procedures are the same approved by the RCA Board for the Core 2 process. The stakeholder process was put in place for the development of the MSHCP. Once the Plan was adopted and in place, the agency would then proceed to implement the Plan. Nonetheless, staff will continue to listen to concerns and comments and be receptive to working out those concerns.

Steven DeBaun, Legal Counsel, recognized the property owners' concern when the 120-day negotiation period starts.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the proposed policies for the HANS 120-day negotiation period and criteria refinement, and mechanism that could be put in place in developing set of policies that would be equally fair for RCA Board to meet the Plan's objectives and for property owners.

M/S/C (ASHLEY/LOWE) to:

- 1) Direct staff to continue to work on the proposed policies for criteria refinement and the HANS 120-day negotiating process;***
- 2) Encourage staff to meet and solicit comments from public and private agencies; and***
- 3) Authorize staff to agendaize these matters for the May 7, 2007 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

12. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A discussion among the Committee members ensued regarding their availability for the proposed change in meeting schedule.

M/S/C (ASHLEY/STUBBLEFIELD) to schedule future meetings of the Executive Committee from 1:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month to 12:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other agenda items before the Executive Committee, Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 12:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Center, Fifth Floor, Conference Room "C", 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board