



WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Jeff Stone at 12:05 p.m., in Conference Room A in the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Fifth Floor, in Riverside, California 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members/Alternates Present

Eugene Montanez
Darcy Kuenzi
John Tavaglione
Jeff Stone
Robin Lowe

Committee Members Absent

Dale Stubblefield
Gary Thomasian

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Committee Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions/revisions.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***M/S/C (MONTANEZ/TAVAGLIONE) to approve the November 21, 2007
Executive Committee meeting minutes, as presented.***

7. APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' REPORTS

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, presented the results of RCA's annual audit. She said that a Single Audit had to be performed because RCA received federal funds. She then reviewed the audit findings, the auditor's recommendations, and staff response to the findings. In conclusion, RCA's financial position is sound and there were no findings concerning the federal awards.

Joe Richards, Executive Director, added that the findings were minor in nature. He commended Honey Bernas and her accounting staff (Rochelle Jensen – Administrative Services Officer, Gary Poor – Administrative Manager), and Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, for a great job on the audit.

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

- 1) Approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Statements and Auditor's Reports;***
- 2) Endorse the actions in Attachment 2; and***
- 3) Authorize staff to agendize this matter for ratification at the January 7, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

8. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION TO DEVELOP A PRESCRIBED BURN PLAN FOR RCA PROPERTIES

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition, reported on the importance of having a Vegetation Management Program. The proposed agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is to develop a vegetation management program and would include a burn plan. He said that RCA Legal Counsel continues to work with CDF Legal Counsel on the agreement specifically relating to making a claim against the CDF for property damage. To reduce the potential for fire hazards next summer, it would be ideal to implement a burn plan during the winter and spring season. Although the provisions relating to property damage must still be worked out with CDF, in order to implement the burn plan prior to next summer, he recommended that the RCA Board adopt the vegetation management agreement as currently negotiated by Legal Counsel and authorize Legal Counsel to continue to negotiate toward improved property damage provisions.

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

- 1) Adopt the Vegetation Management Program Agreement as currently negotiated by Legal Counsel;***
- 2) Allow Legal Counsel to continue to negotiate toward improved property damage provisions; and,***
- 3) Authorize staff to agendize this matter for the January 7, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

9. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR A POSITION DEDICATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MSHCP

Honey Bernas emphasized the importance of having a full-time, local representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the RCA Office to assist in the implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Plan. The position is a GS-14 policy level, at \$165,000 per year, and would be funded with Development Mitigation Fees and various operational revenues. The proposed term of the agreement is for four years or until work is completed, whichever comes first.

Joe Richards recalled that this was as a result of the meeting with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, wherein a request was made that a Service position dedicated to Plan implementation be created.

In response to Robin Lowe as to whom the GS-14 staff reports to, Joe Richards said that it would probably be Jim Bartel, Regional Manager of the Carlsbad Office.

Eugene Montanez asked who RCA would turn to if a determination is made by the FWS staff contrary to RCA, and Joe Richards stated that RCA would then bring the matter forward to Washington, D.C.

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

- 1) Authorize the Executive Director to prepare an agreement for a GS-14 Policy Level Position with the USFWS;***
- 2) Approve the Budget Adjustment contained in the Financial Information section below; and***
- 3) Authorize staff to agendize this matter for the January 7, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

