

*Regional Conservation Authority***AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE USFWS FOR A POSITION
DEDICATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MSHCP****Staff Contact:****Honey Bernas, Director of
Administrative Services
951-955-2842****Background:**

As previously discussed with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, staff believes that it is crucial that a full-time, local representative from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be assigned to assist the RCA on implementation of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Conservation Plan. Although the role of the Service in development in Western Riverside County has decreased with the approval and implementation of the WRC MSHCP, the Service is still a significant partner in the Plan's implementation.

Staff from the Carlsbad office of the Service, which is currently assigned to the MSHCP, is extremely busy and often unavailable for meetings or to be able to respond promptly to RCA's requests. Therefore, staff believes that it is imperative that a position be created for a Service representative to be dedicated full time to Plan implementation. As a result of the meeting with Secretary of the Department of Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, on June 20, 2007, the Service has agreed to create such a position to be located in Riverside, provided the position is funded by the RCA.

The position will be a GS-14 policy level position funded with Development Mitigation Fees (80%) and various operational revenues (20%). The term of the agreement will be for a period of four (4) years, or until work is completed, whichever comes first. The cost will be \$165,000 per year, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$670,000, which includes up to \$10,000 for moving expenses. Funding for this position was not included in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, and therefore, a budget adjustment is required.

Staff is requesting that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to prepare an agreement with the USFWS, approve the budget adjustment contained in the Financial Information Section on Page 2, and authorize staff to agendize this matter for consideration at the January 7, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

Staff Recommendation(s):

That the Executive Committee:

- 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.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
In Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current Year Cost: \$ 80,000 Annual Cost: \$ 165,000 Total Cost: \$670,000
Source of Funds: Development Mitigation Fees 80% Various Operational Revenue 20%	Budget Adjustment: Yes 51630-935100-510040 <\$14,300> 51630-935100-518100 <\$5,700> 51630-935100-527980 \$20,000
Approved by: <i>Honey Bernas</i>	Date: December 13, 2007