



# **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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## **MINUTES Executive Committee “Committee of the Whole” April 16, 2008**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee was called to order by Vice Chairman Bob Buster at 1:16 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 Present**

Bob Buster  
Andy Melendrez  
Jeff Stone

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Larry Dressel  
Jim Hyatt  
Eugene Montanez  
Gary Thomasian

Due to a lack of quorum, the Executive Committee operated as a “Committee of the Whole.”

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Committee member announcements.

### **5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS**

There were no additions/revisions.

### **6. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were no items suggested for the next meeting.

**RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE “COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE” MINUTES**

**April 16, 2008**

**Page 2 of 5**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

**8. BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM WORK PLAN AND COST ESTIMATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09**

Ken Graff, Director of Acquisition and Monitoring, informed the Committee that the objective of the Biological Monitoring Program is to collect data and information on the species and habitats covered in the MSHCP. The information collected is for the Adaptive Management Program. Pursuant to the MSHCP, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is the Monitoring Program Administrator for the first eight years of the permit. The CDFG does not currently have a staff person assigned to fill the Monitoring Program Administrator position. As a result, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) staff person is currently filling the position that is funded by the RCA and by the USFWS. He noted that the FY 2008-09 Work Plan describes the monitoring activities planned, the schedule of field work, and budget for personnel and operating costs. The majority of funding is allocated to contracts for monitoring staff and is largely funded by the RCA through a contract with the Santa Ana Watershed Association. Mr. Graff requested that the Committee approve the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate for FY 2008-09 in the amount of \$1,471,497 and authorization to agendize this item for RCA Board for approval.

The Executive Committee “Committee of the Whole” supported:

- 1) Approval of the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate; and
- 2) Authorized staff to agendize this matter for the May 5, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

**9. RESOLUTION NO. 08-004 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, presented RCA's Operating and Capital Budget for FY 2008-09. Staff used as its guiding principle for preparing the proposed budget the cost allocation assumptions endorsed by the RCA Board last year. Distribution of appropriations is as follows: 1) Administration 1.74% (\$946,000); 2) Land Acquisition 93.49% (\$51.4 million); and 3) Land Management/Monitoring 4.77% (\$2.62 million). The proposed budget includes \$44.4 million in anticipated revenues, \$54.9 million in expenditures and a cash balance of \$12 million at year-end after using \$10.3 million to supplement the proposed acquisition budget.

## **RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE “COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE” MINUTES**

**April 16, 2008**

**Page 3 of 5**

Honey Bernas noted that in preparing the proposed budget, staff took the following into consideration: 1) 15% decrease in development fees from FY 2007-08 actuals (60% less than projected at the beginning of last year); 2) 47.28% decrease in TUMF revenues; 3) 15% decrease for joint project review; 4) 15% decrease in flood control covered project contributions; 5) 100% reduction for participating special entities fees; 6) revenues from tipping fees were projected to be the same as last year; 7) 75% decrease in interest revenues; 8) 20% increase in donations; 9) 12% increase in grants; and, 10) 7% increase in Measure A contributions.

Bob Buster said that the declining condition of land cost provides an opportunity for RCA to aggressively acquire properties and asked the projected activity level for acquisition for next year.

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, said that the level of acquisition activities for next year will remain the same as this year. Unless there is an upturn in the economy, the projected reduction in funding sources limits RCA in its acquisition activities.

In response to Jeff Stone as to the amount budgeted for legal cost, Honey Bernas stated that the proposed budget includes \$700,000 for expenditures and a \$2 million dollar contingency for litigation.

A discussion followed relating to additional revenues that the RCA may look into such as changing and increasing RCA's share of the tipping out-of-county fees. Bob Buster and Jeff Stone directed staff to meet with the County Executive Office to discuss this matter.

It was determined by the Executive Committee “Committee of the Whole” to:

- 1) Recommend that the Board adopt Resolution No. 08-004 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Operating and Capital Budget for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority; and
- 2) Authorize staff to agendize this matter for the May 5, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

### **9. RECURRING CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09**

Honey Bernas reviewed the list of recurring contracts proposed for FY 2008-09. She said that RCA has reduced the number of contracts by four and reduced the contract amounts where appropriate, in light of the revenue projections for next fiscal year. The Dudek contract was changed from \$606,000 to \$859,000 to

accommodate Joint Project Review and Other Special Projects, of which \$324,761 of the contract amount is reimbursable.

## **RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE “COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE” MINUTES**

**April 16, 2008**

**Page 4 of 5**

The Executive Committee “Committee of the Whole” supported:

- 1) Approval of the recurring contracts for Fiscal Year 2008-09; and
- 2) Authorized staff to agendize this matter for the May 5, 2008 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

### **10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

#### **10.1 PROGRESS REPORT REGARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THOMAS B. MULLEN**

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, informed the Executive Committee on Tom Mullen’s work activities including Anheuser Busch, Winchester 700, securing additional federal funding for RCA, and the RAND study. As recommended in a separate agenda item, Tom Mullen’s contract will be extended for another year and requires monthly reporting to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will report to the RCA Board on Tom Mullen’s work activities.

Bob Buster inquired about the status of possibly amending some portions of the Multiple Species Habitat Act recognizing and providing additional funding to States that are working to comply with the Act.

Charlie Landry said that the RAND Study may contain information on this area and its affect. This may be an item to go after with the new Administration in Washington, D.C.

### **11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Charlie Landry will present a report to the RCA Board on the process to bring Wildomar into the fold. RCA, along with WRCOG and RCTC, will be meeting with the County Executive Office and representatives of Wildomar on May 20, 2008.

Bob Buster noted that there needs to be a new wildlife corridor created for mountain lions in the area between Harrison Street and Van Buren Boulevard.

Andy Melendrez asked about coordination with San Diego, and Ken Graft said that there are three habitat conservation plans in San Diego. The Nature Conservancy in San Diego collaborates with RCA frequently on acquisition matters on the Santa Rosa Plateau and special linkages across I-15 on Rainbow.

**RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE “COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE” MINUTES**  
**April 16, 2008**  
**Page 5 of 5**

Karin Cleary-Rose of Fish and Wildlife Service added that the monitoring group for RCA meets with San Diego on a quarterly basis to collaborate on protocols. Monitoring management staff meet on a monthly basis and they start meeting quarterly with San Diego and Orange Counties to discuss coordination on conservation efforts and across-the-border management issues.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items to be discussed, Vice Chairman Bob Buster adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 12:00 p.m., at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Fifth Floor Conference Room C, Riverside, California 92501.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas  
Clerk of the Board