



MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Gary Thomasian at 1:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley
Kevin Bash
Bob Buster
Steve Di Memmo
John Denver
Maryann Edwards
Jordan Ehrenkranz
Bonnie Flickinger
Mike Gardner
Jim Hyatt
Robin Lowe
John Machisic
Melissa Melendez
Eugene Montanez
Jeff Stone
John Tavaglione
Gary Thomasian

Board Members Absent

John Benoit
Bob Cashman
Larry Dressel
Mark Yarbrough

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

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5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions/ revisions to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (STONE/HYATT) to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (HYATT/ASHLEY) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

7.1 FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE RESERVE MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT

- 1) Approve the First Amendment to the Reserve Management Services Contract between the RCA and Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District; and
- 2) Authorize the Chairman to execute said amendment on behalf of the Authority.

7.2 RESOLUTION NO. 10-001, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SUBGRANT FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND MATCH FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF TEMECULA FOR THE FRANCIS PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Adopt Resolution No. 10-001, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Approving the Acceptance of a Subgrant from the Wildlife Conservation Board and Match Funds from the City of Temecula for the Francis Property Acquisition.

7.3 RESOLUTION NO. 10-002, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TAX DEFAULT PROPERTY FROM THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Adopt Resolution No. 10-002, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Approving the Purchase of Tax Default Property from the County of Riverside Tax Collector's Office.

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7.4 PROPOSAL TO AMEND RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

- 1) Cancel the July 12, 2010 RCA Board meeting; and
- 2) Schedule a RCA Board meeting on July 19, 2010.

7.5 RATIFICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT OF THE 2010 RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ratify Chairman Gary Thomasian's appointments to the RCA Executive Committee.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, presented the following items:

8.1 SECTION 6 UPDATE

As reported at the last RCA Board meeting, RCA staff has been working with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer in an effort to reverse the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) revised policy interpretation disallowing the use of local mitigation funds as match for Section 6 funds. Senators Feinstein and Boxer sent a letter to the Department of Interior to reconsider the policy. In addition, a legal brief prepared by Legal Counsel was submitted to USFWS. A response to the letter has not yet been received. USFWS indicated that this matter is currently being reviewed by their legal staff. Presently, RCA has \$11 million in Section 6 funds that are on hold until such time as the regulations was reversed. In the meantime, staff is working with the California Coalition on Habitat Conservation in drafting language for legislation. A meeting with the Department of Interior and USFWS is being scheduled for next month.

Supervisor Bob Buster commented that when the MSHCP was adopted, federal and state agencies were obligated to contribute toward acquisition of land to be conserved. He then asked if there was discussion regarding formulating financing plans in order for RCA to achieve the required acreage for mitigation over time.

Michelle Ouellette, Legal Counsel, acknowledged that the federal and state agencies are required to comply to provide their share of acreage. She noted that the change in Section 6 funding regulation also affects other Plans in the State. Working with the California Coalition, including other local entities, lawyers, lobbyists and environmental groups, has been beneficial.

In response to Maryann Edwards' question if USFWS has provided an explanation for excluding use of local mitigation fees for Section 6 match, Michelle Ouellette said they related policies that were not applicable. The legal brief that RCA provided to them included legal justification that is contrary to their reasons for excluding local mitigation fees to be used as match for Section 6 funds.

8.2 CONSULTANT SERVICES UPDATE- DAVID DRISCOLL

The services that Dave Driscoll provides to RCA include: 1) implementing vegetation management plans and fire safety; 2) representing RCA on the Fire Hazard Reduction Task Force; 3) collaborating with Reserve management staff and Cal Fire to standardize fire response plans; 4) surveying new properties for potential problems and liability, and assessing damage that may occur to prevent any major restoration; and, 5) assessing properties for vegetation management. His contract for FY 2009-10 is \$45,000, and \$7,725 has been expended from July through December. RCA is very pleased with his performance. In addition, he maintains a great working relationship with Cal Fire, cities and county staff.

9. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition, reported that since the last RCA Board of Directors' meeting, the total reserve acreage increased from 45,045 to 45,240.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No items were suggested by Board Members for the next meeting.

At this time, Chairman Thomasian adjourned the meeting for Closed Session.

11. CLOSED SESSION ITEM:

- 11A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR**
Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.8
Negotiating Parties: RCA – Executive Director or Designee
Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel Nos.	Property Owners
1	391-070-040	Glen Eden Corporation, Larry Smith – Corporation President

After Closed Session, Chairman Thomasian reconvened the meeting. There were no announcements.

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12. ADJOURNMENT

With no other items before the RCA Board of Directors, Chairman Thomasian adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., at the County Administrative Center, Board Room, First Floor, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board