

*Regional Conservation Authority***CONSULTANT REPORT – THOMAS B. MULLEN****Staff Contact:****Charles Landry, Executive Director
(951) 955-9700****Background:****Report Covers Period:** 07/01/09 – 01/31/10

Section 6 Funding: Tom Mullen has been working with Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and their staffs to overturn the change the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service instituted last year which no longer allows local development mitigation funds to be used as match for Federal Section 6 funding. Tom was directly responsible for getting a joint letter from the Senators to the Department of Interior (DOI) asking the DOI to correct the match problem. RCA has been coordinating with the California Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition for a joint approach to this issue. Tom Mullen has had a number of phone conferences and has met with Department of Interior to resolve this conflict.


Environmental Funding: Tom has continued to work on additional funding for the RCA. As briefed last fall, RCA has been using the Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment, which was attended by our Chairman, Past Chairman, and Executive Director, as a springboard to identify and develop additional funding for those Habitat Conservation Plans which facilitate infrastructure. The "Summit" has generated significant interest on the part of the federal government and national environmental groups. This has opened the door for RCA to have a series of meetings with interested agencies. Tom Mullen has been coordinating with Congress and the Administration, as well as national environmental groups, to develop a structure for the additional funding.

Tom Mullen has consulted with Senator Dianne Feinstein; Sally Ericsson, Associate Director for Natural Resources, Energy and Science, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Mark Kramer of the Nature Conservancy; Michael Bean, Counsel to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Will Shafroth, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Edward Boling, General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality, White House; Larry Selzer, President and CEO of the Conservation Fund; and Doug Wheeler, Attorney, Hogan and Hartson, to develop additional funding and the programs to support that funding. This is a bipartisan issue supported by members of both parties. Tom met with the President's Office of Management and Budget and with the Department of Interior which provides the oversight of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, Mr. Mullen has been working with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). All of these agencies have been extremely interested in moving forward on this initiative. The agencies have been providing significant assistance through this process. There are significant challenges to develop this funding and the mechanisms to incorporate it into the budget. This will be a long process, but one which could pay much dividends.

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Executive Committee and Staff Recommendation:

That the RCA Board of Directors receive and file the report regarding services provided by Thomas B. Mullen.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Fiscal Year 2010 Contract Amount: \$96,000, plus \$10,000 reimbursables	FYTD Expenditures (through 01/31/10): \$61,388.36
Approved by: 	Date: March 1, 2010