



MEETING MINUTES

March 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 1:02 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
Daryl Hickman
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
Bob Buster

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 (GARDNER/DI MEMMO) to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

7. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

David Kennett, Capitol Alliance Consulting, presented a report on the activities relating to the RCA, such as working on reversing the Section 6 local match policy decision issue and efforts exploring potential funding for the MSHCP.

Robin Lowe commended David Kennett for his diligence working with staff on RCA issues. She inquired as to the role David Hayes played, and David Kennett stated that David Hayes is involved on a daily basis but primarily works on the President's program on Renewable Energy.

In response to Jim Hyatt as to who attended the meeting with Senator Dianne Feinstein, David Kennett stated Michael Bean, Mark Kramer (with the Nature Conservancy), Tom Mullen, and Senator Feinstein's staff.

Eugene Montanez asked if extra stimulus money became available, could RCA be one of the recipients.

David Kennett explained that unfortunately the current Stimulus Bill is only for transportation projects and not for HCPs. There may be potential funding opportunities for the HCPs under the new stimulus bill known as the "Job Bill."

8. FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, presented the FY 2009-10 Second Quarter Financial Report and the proposed adjustments to the budget.

In response to Chairman Thomasian if Section 6 appropriation would be included under the Federal Grants column, Charlie Landry said that Section 6 funds would be listed under the projected expenditures column as they have already been designated for specific properties. Honey Bernas added that upon receipt of additional funds, a budget adjustment will be presented to the RCA Board for approval.

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Jeff Stone expressed his concern about the current economic condition and RCA's reserves and suggested that RCA develop a reserve policy to be presented to the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

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

- 1) Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Second Quarter Financial Report;***
- 2) Approve the budget adjustments contained in Exhibit A attached hereto; and***
- 3) Authorize the Chairman to direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustments contained in Exhibit A.***

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, presented the following items:

9.1 CONSULTANT SERVICES UPDATE- THOMAS B. MULLEN

The services that Tom Mullen provides to the RCA include: 1) Working towards increasing Section 6 funding for future Land Acquisitions; 2) Working with Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and he was instrumental in coordinating the meeting with the Department of Interior; and, 3) He has been the lead on exploring other funding sources for RCA with all levels of administration by participating in meetings with the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB), who develops the President's budget; and Council Environmental Quality, (CEQ) the Presidents advisor on environmental issues.

Jim Hyatt inquired about funds expended to date on Tom Mullen's contract this year and the anticipated expenditures at the end of the fiscal year. Charlie Landry referred to Page 2 of the staff report and advised that the budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2009-10 is \$96,000, plus \$10,000 for reimbursable expenses. As of the of January 2010, \$61,388 has been expended.

9.2 RCA NEWSLETTER

Copies of the RCA newsletter were distributed to the RCA Board of Directors. The newsletter is a component of RCA's public outreach program to provide information on RCA activities and the MSHCP process. Staff plans to publish the newsletter twice a year and distribute them electronically and by mail.

Robin Lowe asked about a strategy to reach the general public to make them aware of the benefits of the MSHCP as it related to infrastructure and habitat conservation.

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Charlie Landry noted that the initial mailing list may be expanded upon request and staff will explore additional means to reach the public. Also, additional MSHCP brochures will be developed for the member agencies to distribute to the public to provide information on the MSHCP and the course of action(s) property owners need to take, if they plan to develop their property.

Eugene Montanez suggested that, as a cost saving measure, RCA use member cities' e-mail lists to distribute the newsletter. He asked staff provide a press release and newsletter in Portable Document Format (PDF) to the member agencies for distribution.

Maryann Edwards added that another means to provide public awareness would be for RCA staff to provide a presentation before the Temecula City Council as their meetings are televised.

Melissa Melendez stated that while she understands the need for public awareness, she expressed concern about spending funds on bulk mailings. She suggested that each member city's website add a link to the RCA newsletter to reduce cost.

Chairman Thomasian stressed the need for public outreach and awareness of the MSHCP process. With member agency staff being on the forefront dealing with the public, it is important that they have full knowledge of the mechanism of the MSHCP. By developing and providing them with a booklet containing guidelines and step-by-step process for land subdivision, as well as definition of MSHCP terminologies will greatly assist not only city member staff but also the general public.

Jeff Stone commended Chairman Thomasian and Board members for their public outreach efforts and for cost-efficient suggestions to distribute the newsletter. He expressed his concern about the state of the economy and declining flow of revenues in order to continue the objectives of the MSHCP. He urged the Executive Director to examine potential expenditures and discretionary expenses, including consultant contracts, travel expenses, etc., for the next two years, until such time as the economy improves and RCA is able to satisfy its 153,000 acre acquisition commitment.

9.3 RCA WORKSHOP

The RCA Workshop is scheduled for April 12, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference 2A & 2B. Items to be discussed at the RCA Board of Directors workshop include: 1) RCA budget & funding; 2) goals and objectives for the Agency; 3) Acquisitions status and RCA strategy for acquiring future land; 4) Infrastructure fees and MSHCP fees.

