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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**July 19, 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 1:00 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**

Bill Batey  
Kevin Bash  
Bob Buster  
Maryann Edwards  
Jordan Ehrenkranz  
Mike Gardner  
Jim Hyatt  
Darci Kuenzi  
Robin Lowe  
John Machisic  
Eugene Montanez  
Karen Spiegel  
Gary Thomasian  
Mark Yarbrough  
Ella Zonowic

#### **Board Members Absent**

John Benoit  
Bob Cashman  
Steve DiMemmo  
Melissa Melendez  
Jeff Stone

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bud Spresney of Cerritos, California, reported that there are possible undertakings to increase the population of Burrowing Owls, not only in Riverside County, but throughout the nation. He then submitted a written report to the RCA Board entitled "Increasing the Burrowing Owl Population by the Application of Appropriate Habitat Enhancement Technology – A 'Do It Anyway' Thing", which included including design, fabrication, assembly and installation of artificial burrows and monitoring/maintenance specifications to enhance the increase of Burrowing Owl population.

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### **4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Thomasian stated that in 2002, the RCA acquired a 914-acre property, located southeast of Diamond Valley Lake near Hemet, as permanent habitat from the Goodharts. This acquisition provided a key milestone for the MSHCP. With sadness, he announced that on Saturday, July 17, 2010, Mr. Goodhart passed away.

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

There were no additions/revisions to the agenda.

### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*M/S/C (HYATT/EDWARDS) to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2010 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors, as submitted.*

### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*M/S/C (MONTANEZ/LOWE) to approve the following Consent Calendar item:*

#### **7.1 FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Approve the budget adjustments contained in the Exhibit A of the staff report.

### **8. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (MSHCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

Pat Egetter, Chief of Technical Information, presented the 2009 Annual MSHCP Report and highlighted accomplishments as follows:

- 1) Habitat Gains Acquisitions/Reserve Assembly – 1,473 acres were acquired, donated or obtained through the local development process, and since February 2000 RCA has acquired 41,609 acres for conservation;
- 2) Habitat Losses as Reported by Permittees – Since 2004, 82% of the development is occurring outside of the criteria cells and 18% within the cells;
- 3) Rough Step – Four (4) of 37 vegetation communities are out of Rough Step in four (4) Rough Step units and one vegetation category in Rough Step 5 was moved back into Rough Step;
- 4) Major Activities – Redesigned RCA website; completed five PSE applications which provided \$3,324,460 in revenue; processed documentations for the two new incorporated cities; continue permittee training; and, processed minor amendment 2007-01;
- 5) Management – Currently manage 21, 696 acres; completed fourteen Management Evaluation Reports; continued focus on property protection/security and habitat enhancement; and,

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- 6) Monitoring – Of the 146 covered species, 95 were detected in 2009 totaling 133 detections within the conservation area; surveys were only conducted within the existing conservation area; surveys were only conducted within the existing conservation area of public-quasi public (PQP) and acquired reserved (ARL) lands; and, continue mapping vegetation communities, gathering existing species information and conducting field surveys.

In response to Maryann Edwards' question whether the report included the Santa Margarita Reserve, Pat Egetter said that the Reserve is included in the PQP lands.

Darci Kuenzi commended and thanked staff for a well written and presented report. The annual report provided an outline of RCA's accomplishments, in-depth detail of the rough step process and the acreage conserved.

It was determined to receive and file the 2009 Western Riverside County MSHCP Annual Report.

9. **RESOLUTION NO. 10-007, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND IN KIND MATCH FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR MULTIPLE PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS**

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, said that last month the RCA Board approved a resolution which authorized the RCA to accept grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board. Resolution No. 10-007 is the same as the previously approved resolution, with the addition that the RCA Board authorize acceptance of match funds from The Nature Conservancy to assist with match fund requirements for grant funds that it receives.

Chairman Thomasian asked about possible acquisitions in the Tenaja area and the preservation of large animal corridors. Brian Beck said that there are a number of willing sellers. RCA is partnering with the City of Temecula (Temecula escarpment) and The Nature Conservancy in the Tenaja area to the west between the Santa Rosa Reserve and the Cleveland National Forest. Staff is currently focusing on grant funding and land donations to comply with RCA's economic policy. The Tenaja linkage, as well as the Temecula linkage, which the latter linkage connects the Santa Rosa Plateau to the Santa Margarita ecological reserve, are considered as high priority and critical linkage in the Plan.

***M/S/C (LOWE/EDWARDS) to approve Resolution No. 10-007, Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board and In Kind Match from the Nature Conservancy for Multiple Property Acquisitions.***

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

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, presented a report on the following items:

### **10.1 Loan Program Update**

A flow chart illustrating the tasks/meetings that were undertaken and held, as well as tasks to be executed, in order to get the loan program legislation signed and in place was presented. Introduction of the loan program legislation before the House and the Senate is expected to occur very soon. Staff will continue to keep the RCA Board Members apprised on progress being made toward a loan program.

In response to Jim Hyatt's request to review the timeline of events, Charlie Landry said that efforts are being made to get the proposal through the federal budget process working with the House and the Senate by October. If this effort is not achieved this year, the program will again be reviewed and continued next year. The current focus is toward approval for the loan program although funding for the loan program may not be accomplished this year.

### **10.2 Section 6 Update**

While in Washington, D.C., staff and its consultants met with the Deputy Secretary of Interior of the Department of Interior and Deputy Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). If USFWS follows through with their verbal commitment, RCA will be able to use its local funds as match for Section 6 funds. Following the meeting, staff received an e-mail from USFWS with the revised proposal for Section 6 match fund requirements. Staff returned proposed requirement for clarification of some of the provisions. In addition to working with USFWS, legislative language on Section 6 match requirement will be submitted by Senator Feinstein's office.

Eugene Montanez commented on the period of time it is taking to revise the Section 6 match requirements. He then asked when this matter is expected to be resolved. Charlie Landry agreed that it has taken a long time just to get a written proposal revision from USFWS, but it is expected that a response should be received at any time now.

### **10.3 RCA Brochure**

A copy of the RCA brochure entitled "*Understanding the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)*", which is a guide for individual property owners were distributed to the RCA Board Members. The Guide can be downloaded from RCA's website.

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Jordan Ehrenkrantz stated that having this Guide is helpful. He then thanked Charlie Landry for attending a Canyon Lake meeting last month.

Charlie Landry informed the RCA Board members that staff is available to provide training or update to their respective cites, if they so desire.

Chairman Thomasian spoke about the need to continue work on public outreach and provide guides that are user-friendly to the public as well assist member cities in training staff and new hires. He thanked Dudek staff for their assistance in developing the Guide.

### **10.4 RCA/CAL FIRE Cooperative Project Update**

Dave Driscoll, RCA Consultant, reviewed RCA activities with CAL FIRE, Riverside County Fire Department, Riverside Community College Fire Academy and City Fire Departments pertaining to vegetation management and weed abatement, and condition and evaluation of RCA parcels with structures. He also reported on the structures with historical significance to be maintained and preserved, as well as the structures to be demolished. Working with CAL FIRE, Fire Departments and the Fire Academy, the structure that needed to be demolished was used for fire training. This joint effort provided fire trainees introduction to habitat reserves of the MSHCP, opportunities for combating wildfires in Riverside County, as well as enhancing fire investigators' skills. The activity saved RCA an estimated \$18,000 in demolition costs through reduced equipment, dumping labor and overhead expenses.

### **12. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, reported that since the last meeting, four additional properties were added to the reserve, bringing the total reserve land to 42,071 acres.

### **13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were no items requested for the next meeting.

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

### **14. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

#### **13A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9**

- **RIC 10004733**
- **RIC 530137**
- **RIC 532973**

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**13B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR**

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Negotiating Parties:** RCA – Executive Director or Designee

**Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms

<b>Item</b>	<b>Assessor Parcel Nos.</b>	<b>Property Owners</b>
1	932-060-023	James Jenkins, Myrna Jenkins
2	932-270-005, 932-270-006, 932-170-019, 932,200,016	Troy Schumacher
3	470-400-014	Keith Sherwin, Christopher Cook, Christopher Grigsby, William Meyer, Jerry Thompson

There were no announcements from Closed Session.

**14. 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, September 13, 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