



MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE March 17, 2010

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman Gary Thomasian at 12:05 p.m. in the RCA Conference Room, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Riverside, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Marion Ashley
Bob Buster
Jim Hyatt
Jeff Stone
Gary Thomasian

Committee Member Absent

Melissa Melendez
Eugene Montanez

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Jim Hyatt recalled that last December, he announced his appointment to the Elections and Bylaws and Planning Committees by the California Special Districts Association. Subsequently, he learned that the RCA is a non-voting member and, therefore, submitted his resignation.
2. Chairman Thomasian showed an article in today's issue of The Press-Enterprise newspaper reporting that Calvary Chapel has filed a lawsuit against the City of Murrieta and the RCA regarding land acquisition.

Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, stated that as of this date, no documentation has been received pertaining to The Press-Enterprise reported lawsuit.

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5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Thomasian clarified that his comments under Agenda Item 8.1, RCA Newsletter, 2nd Paragraph, related to developing a separate brochure on the MSHCP process and information for the cities, county and the public.

M/S/C (HYATT/STONE) to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 Executive Committee meeting as submitted.

ABSTENTION: Ashley

Chairman Thomasian noted that subsequent to the Executive Committee meeting on March 17, 2010, the date of the RCA Board Workshop was changed from April 12, 2010 to May 3, 2010.

7. MSHCP LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FEE ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT

Charlie Landry, Executive Director, said that on an annual basis, the Plan requires an adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to local development mitigation fees. This year, the CPI is 1.832%. If RCA Board determines not to implement the CPI fee adjustment, it would result in a loss of approximately \$115,000 to RCA's revenue for the first six months. The spreadsheet attached to the staff report includes information on the existing fee, fee category and the increase per fee category.

Discussion followed regarding the effect of the development mitigation fee CPI adjustment to local agencies, developers, and RCA.

Jeff Stone proposed not to implement the fee adjustment for the upcoming fiscal year due to current economic conditions.

Mark Knorringa, Executive Director, Building Industry Association – Riverside Chapter, voiced his support for RCA not to implement the MSHCP Fee CPI adjustment effective July 1, 2010.

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

- 1) Recommend that the RCA Board of Directors to maintain the existing local development mitigation fees and not to implement the MSHCP Fee CPI adjustment effective July 1, 2010; and***
- 2) Direct staff to agendize this matter for the May 3, 2010 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.***

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8. CONSULTANT SERVICES - DUDEK

Charlie Landry reviewed the services provided by Dudek from October 1, 2009 to February 26, 2010 which included joint project review processing; assistance to participating special entities; criteria refinements; minor amendments; attending meetings with the County Environmental Programs, Wildlife Agencies, and Acquisition Team Department; management and monitoring review; and providing data for the preparation of the Annual Report. The FY 2009-10 contract cost for Dudek is \$680,000 and, as of January 29, 2010, \$247,385.51 has been expended.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Charlie Landry reported on the following items:

9.1 RCA Board Workshop

As announced by Chairman Thomasian, the RCA Board Workshop will be held on Monday, May 3, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Staff is working with County Facilities Management to hold the workshop in their Second Floor Conference Room which depends upon timely delivery of furniture. A notification will be sent to RCA Board Members.

9.2 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coalition Update

Two weeks ago, as part of the HCP Coalition, Charlie Landry attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., with staffs of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Department of Interior, and Office of Management and Budget, to discuss increasing the Section 6 pool of funds and to resolve the Section 6 issue regarding local match funds. Department of Interior has partially punted the matter to Sacramento and, therefore, a meeting will be held with selected members of the HCP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Office in Sacramento and Carlsbad, as well as Department of Interior. He noted that the Department of Interior had already indicated that they saw some merit to RCA's legal interpretation of the regulation to the local match issue. Additional items that will be discussed include inconsistencies and solutions toward administration of Section 6 funds. While in Washington, D.C., he visited the offices of Congressman Ken Calvert, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, who are in support of the introduction of legislation regarding the Section 6 fund local match, if an interpretation change is not successful.

Another matter being pursued is a federally assisted loan program to enable local governments to acquire land during the economic downturn. He then read a letter from Thomas L. Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior, addressed to Senator Dianne Feinstein that indicated that this matter deserves consideration. They expressed their willingness to work with the HCPs.

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A number of meetings are being scheduled in Washington, D.C., between now and July. There are sufficient funds in the budget to accommodate staff, RCA Board Member(s), and Tom Mullen to attend the meetings. He requested concurrence to use the budgeted funds to attend up to five meetings in order to work on the Section 6 local match issue as well as pursuing establishing programs to assist in acquisition funding. The programs being look is are facsimile of programs that have been established for other purpose

Bob Buster stated that such a program is future investment and improves productivity as it is related to infrastructure and will help to reduce the national deficit.

Marion Ashley spoke about the positive role that HCPs have played in accelerating the building of infrastructure in the county.

The Executive Committee authorized the expenditure of budgeted funds for RCA staff, Board Members and consultants to attend up to five additional meetings.

Mark Knorringa offered the BIA's assistance whenever it is needed by the RCA/HCPs.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Hyatt spoke about a conversation that he had with Dustin McLain regarding management ideas for RCA's reserve land. He suggested that this could be placed on a future agenda.

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition, said that the Management and Monitoring Program will be covered at RCA's Workshop. Charlie Landry noted that Dustin McLain is a staff member of the County of Riverside Parks Department that RCA contracts with to manage RCA's reserved land.

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

11. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

11A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9
Exposure to Litigation
Number of Potential Cases: One (1)

11B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: Executive Director

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no other items before the Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at 12:00 p.m., at the Riverside Centre, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Third Floor, RCA Conference Room, Riverside, California, 92501.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board