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MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Vice Chairman Jim Hyatt at 1:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. At this time, John Machisic led the RCA Board Members and those present in a flag salute.

3. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Bill Batey
Kevin Bash
Ben Benoit
Roger Berg
Randy Bonner
Bob Buster
Maryann Edwards
Jim Hyatt
Linda Krupa
Darcy Kuenzi
John Machisic
Melissa Melendez
Andy Melendrez
Scott Miller
Eugene Montanez
Ron Roberts
Karen Spiegel
Mark Yarbrough
Ella Zanowic

Board Members Absent

John Benoit
Alan Long

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Bud Sprezny, Cerritos, California, presented a written and oral testimony comparing the performance metrics of services provided by the Salvation Army and the RCA. He said that in contrast, the Salvation Army provides a scope of concise metrics of services that is worthy of support unlike the RCA which has

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focused on one issue - acquired acreage - instead covering a list of program progress and conservation matters such as documentation of cougar crossings by linkage and assessment of function and value regarding acquiring and upgrading linkages. In light of the current state of economy and to appropriately assess the value of the current conservation program, he suggested the following program areas' progress and conservation metrics for the RCA to act upon: 1) security; 2) functional aspects; 3) environment improvements; 4) wildlife support and enhancement; 5) development interface; and, 6) specification generation and approval. *(A description of the above-mentioned program areas are provided at length in the presented written testimony.)*

- B. George Hague, representing the Moreno Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club, expressed his support for the cougar crossings stating that maintaining the largest predator will sustain the ecosystem. He presented his concerns regarding the allowable uses by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for the Ramona Duck Club conservation easement. He is in favor of the approval of the easement for conservation but not for the list of allowable uses on the property, which Mr. Hague believes included a cattery, public dog kennels, stables for boarding and keeping horses, and for pasture. He added that his concern was submitted to the RCA and the response received was that they strongly support the conservation easement, which he believes is just a matter of checking off acres. Mr. Hague stated that in his mind, what RCA needed to do, as has been done by other environmental agencies, was to contact the WCB and point out that the funding source did not allow for these types of uses because they are uses that are not in the purview of conservation for the benefit of preserving the 146 species. In the future, the Board should direct its staff members, as part of their responsibility, to take on the task regarding matters that would make it possible for the species to continue their existence. In addition, he is interested in looking at information comparing property management costs for the last three years, as the need is still as strong as ever. He suggested discussion of these items at a future RCA Board meeting.

5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

6. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

At the request of Legal Counsel, Agenda Item No. 9, *Resolution No. 11-003, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Adopting a Public/Quasi-Public Lands Trade-Out Policy and Procedure*, was pulled from the agenda.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (BUSTER/EDWARDS) to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting, as submitted.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (MELENDEZ/SPIEGEL) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

8.1 CONSULTANT REPORT – DAVE KENNETT, CAPITOL ALLIANCE CONSULTING, LLC, QUARTERLY REPORT

Receive and file the quarterly report by Dave Kennett.

8.2 SECOND AMENDMENT TO 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 Second Amendment to Reserve Management Services Contract between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District; and
2. Authorize the Chairman to execute the said amendment on behalf of the Authority.

8.3. MSHCP LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FEE ANNUAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ADJUSTMENT

1. Approve *not* to implement a CPI adjustment for MSHCP Local Development Mitigation Fees; and
2. Direct staff to inform member agencies of RCA Board's action.

8.4. RESOLUTION NO. 11-002, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AMENDING THE WEIGHTED VOTING SECTION OF ITS BYLAWS TO ADD THE CITY OF EASTVALE

Adopt Resolution No. 11-002, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Amending the Weighted Voting Section of Its Bylaws to Add the City of Eastvale.

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9. RESOLUTION NO. 11-003, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ADOPTING A PUBLIC/QUASI-PUBLIC LANDS TRADE-OUT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be placed on the agenda at a future RCA Board meeting.

George Hague requested the opportunity to present his comments on this item as he may not be in attendance of the meeting when the item returns to the RCA Board for discussion. He noted that until four years ago, the San Jacinto Wildlife's manager for 20+ years was also a biologist. He and others are concerned that San Jacinto Wildlife was basically transformed to a duck club for the area rather than protecting species as their mission. A plant watch with plant experts was conducted and some of the areas have been turned into ponds, which is a threat to plant species. Agencies were alerted of this matter; however, no action was taken. Therefore, he is in favor of the proposal that if land that is important and threatening to species is being eliminated that they be accountable and produce similar land within the context of the area.

10. MONITORING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Laurie Dobson Correa, Director of Reserve Management and Monitoring, presented a report on RCA's Monitoring Program. She reviewed the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) requirements which included providing information on achieving species objectives for the 146 covered species, natural communities and ecological processes, and to Reserve Managers for management decisions. The first five to eight years are considered to be an inventory phase. The RCA is responsible for implementing the MSHCP and this is being accomplished with thirteen staff, and works with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), who provided a Monitoring Program Administrator, and vehicles for the first eight years of the Plan. Having conservation objectives which define conservation for the 146 covered species to be achieved by the Plan, documentation of species presence and/or reproduction, species' reporting requirements, and conducting surveys throughout the conservation area are part of the Monitoring Program's role. Efforts being made to survey species include survey protocol development, sampling design, baseline inventory field surveys, updating and verifying existing records of species occurrences, and update species occurrence/breeding surveys, as required by the Plan. Collaboration is done with local public, state, and federal agencies to share and coordinate information to avoid duplication of service. She noted that to date accomplishments are as follows: 1) Developed protocols, sampling design, and methods for data analysis, Operations and Training Manuals, and integrated database for all MSHCP survey data; 2) Completed survey reports and species observation datasets were annually; and, 3) Focused surveys all 146 species were conducted by the Monitoring Program or partner agencies. The FY 2010-11 budget for the Monitoring Program is \$1,263,810 (RCA \$680,110, CDFG \$398,284, and State/Federal Wildlife Grant \$185,416).

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Charlie Landry, Executive Director, added that noted that there is very limited funding source (tipping fees) for the monitoring program. The local mitigation fees are exclusively for acquisition purposes and could not be expended for the monitoring program.

George Hague suggested that staff's power point presentations be made available to the public prior to their presentation to the RCA Board so that they may view it and determine whether to attend the meeting to submit public comments. He was surprised that there were only 45 species surveyed. He is concerned with the lack of funding for the surveys and he is hopeful that revenue sources could be found. He wished the RCA the best in its efforts to preserving the species and locating revenue sources.

In response to a question regarding George Hague's affiliation, Bob Buster informed the RCA Board members that in addition to his association with the Moreno Valley Sierra Club, George Hague was Riverside area's top national award winning teacher and is very knowledgeable with regard to the County from an environmental standpoint, and has watch the process for a number of years.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Charlie Landry reported on the following matters:

11.1 Loan Program Update

Staff and Chairman Jeff Stone have scheduled a number of meetings in Washington, D.C. this week, including meetings with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Ken Calvert, on the proposed loan program legislation that will be presented to the Senate and the House, and with the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife to discuss the proposal, implementation and other ongoing issues.

11.2 RCA Board/Alternates Workshop

The workshop for RCA Board Members and Alternates is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 18, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in Temecula. Workshop agenda will include discussion and addressing major issues, and to update its goals and objectives. Also, an RCA Board meeting may be scheduled on that day.

11.3 Results of Wildlife Conservation Board Grant for Wilhelm

The Wildlife Conservation Board has approved the County of Riverside's grant, clearing the process to close escrow on the Wilhelm acquisition by the end of March or April. The property is located in the vicinity of the Hemet vernal pool complex, south of Florida Avenue and west of the aqueduct.

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12. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, reported that RCA closed escrow on 40 acres and 34 acres of donated property which brings the total reserve land to 43,108 acres.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was requested that a report on cougar crossings be presented at a future meeting.

At this time, Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, announced the Closed Session items that were listed on the agenda. The RCA Board recessed to Closed Session.

14. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

14.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9

- **RIC 530137 Anheuser Busch**
- **RIC 1100822 Friends of Riverside Hills**

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Vice Chairman Hyatt adjourned the meeting. With the April 4, 2011 meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors declared as cancelled, the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board