

ATTACHMENT D

Board of Supervisors

County of Riverside

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-299

CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AND APPROVING THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (the "MSHCP" or "Project") is a multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on the conservation of both sensitive species and their associated habitats to address biological and ecological diversity and conservation needs in Western Riverside County, setting aside significant areas of undisturbed land for the conservation of sensitive habitat while preserving open space and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the MSHCP boundaries ("MSHCP Plan Area") encompass approximately 1,966 square miles, consisting of approximately 1.26 million acres and include approximately 843,500 acres of unincorporated Western Riverside County land west of the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains and extending to the Orange County line, as well as approximately 372,700 acres within the jurisdictional areas of the following 14 incorporated cities: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, and Temecula (collectively, "Cities"); and

WHEREAS, the MSHCP establishes a framework for compliance with State and Federal endangered species regulations while accommodating future growth in Western Riverside County, including issuance of "Take" permits for certain species pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal Endangered Species Act and Section 2800, et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside ("County"), is the lead agency pursuant to the

FORM APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNSEL

JUN 12 2003

BY Karin Watts-Bayle

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1 California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Public Res. Code, § 21000 et seq.), the State
2 CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15000 et seq.) and the County of Riverside's Local Rules for
3 implementing CEQA; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, the County determined that a joint Environmental Impact Report/
6 Environmental Impact Statement ("EIR/EIS") should be prepared pursuant to CEQA and the
7 National Environmental Quality Act ("NEPA") in order to analyze all potential adverse
8 environmental impacts of the Project; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, the County published a Notice of Preparation ("NOP") of a draft EIR/EIS on
11 September 7, 2001, in *The Press Enterprise* and *La Prensa*. The NOP was also distributed by the
12 County and mailed to 149 recipients and was circulated for a period of 30 days, pursuant to State
13 CEQA Guidelines sections 15082(a), 15103 and 15375; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15082, the County solicited
16 comments from potential responsible agencies, including details about the scope and content of the
17 environmental information related to the responsible agency's area of statutory responsibility, as well
18 as the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that the
19 responsible agency would have analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, approximately 29 written comments were received by the County in response
22 to the NOP, which assisted the County in narrowing the issues and alternatives for analysis in the
23 Draft EIR/EIS; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, the Draft EIR/EIS was completed and released for public review on or about
26 November 14, 2002; and
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1 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors held public hearings to consider comments on the
2 MSHCP and the Draft EIR/EIS on May 5, 6 and 8, 2003; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, at its regularly scheduled
5 public meeting on June 17, 2003 reviewed the Initial Study, Draft EIR/EIS and the Final EIR/EIS
6 and other related documents in the record before it; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, as contained herein, the County, as lead agency, has endeavored in good faith
9 to set forth the basis for its decision on the Project; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, all of the findings and conclusions made by the County pursuant to this
12 Resolution are based upon the oral and written evidence presented to it as a whole and not based
13 solely on the information provided in this Resolution; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, no comments made in the public hearings conducted by the County or any
16 additional information submitted have produced substantial new information requiring recirculation
17 or additional environmental review under State CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, all the procedures of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines and the Riverside
20 County Rules to Implement the Act have been met, and the Final EIR/EIS, prepared in connection
21 with the Project, is sufficiently detailed so that all the potentially significant effects of the Project on
22 the environment and measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen such effects have been
23 evaluated in accordance with the above-referenced Act, Guidelines and Rules; now, therefore,

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25 **BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED** by the Board of
26 Supervisors of the County of Riverside, in regular session assembled on June 17, 2003, that: