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MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Vice Chairman Ingram at 12:35 p.m. on June 5, 2017, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Lesa Sobek led the RCA Board Members and meeting attendees in a flag salute.

3. ROLL CALL

Member Agency	Board Member Name	Status	Arrived
City of Banning	Daniela Andrade	Present	11:31 AM
City of Beaumont	Julio Martinez	Present	11:29 AM
City of Calimesa	Jeffrey Hewitt	Present	11:31 AM
City of Canyon Lake	Vicki Warren	Present	11:25 AM
City of Corona	Eugene Montanez	Present	11:30 AM
City of Eastvale	Joseph Tessari, Alternate	Present	11:23 AM
City of Hemet	Michael Perciful	Present	11:33 AM
City of Jurupa Valley	Verne Lauritzen	Present	11:21 AM
City of Lake Elsinore	Natasha Johnson	Absent	
City of Menifee	Matt Liesemeyer	Present	11:29 AM
City of Moreno Valley	Jeffrey Giba	Present	11:29 AM
City of Murrieta	Jonathan Ingram, Vice Chairman	Present	11:28 AM
City of Norco	Kevin Bash	Present	11:33 AM
City of Perris	David Starr Rabb	Present	11:24 AM
City of Riverside	Andy Melendrez	Present	11:26 AM
City of San Jacinto	Crystal Ruiz	Present	11:33 AM
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Present	11:31 AM
City of Wildomar	Timothy Walker	Present	11:25 AM
District 1	Kevin Jeffries	Present	11:21 AM
District 2	John Tavaglione	Present	11:32 AM
District 3	Chuck Washington	Present	11:19 AM
District 4	V. Manuel Perez	Absent	
District 5	Lesa Sobek, Alternate	Present	12:23 PM

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Ingram called for public comments regarding items not listed on the agenda. There were no public comments.

5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS (This item provides the opportunity for the Board Members to report on attended meetings/conferences and any other items related to RCA activities.)

Vice Chairman Ingram called for Board Member announcements. There were no Board Member announcements.

6. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS (The Board may add an item to the Agenda after making a finding that there is a need to take immediate action on the item and that the item came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda. An action adding an item to the agenda requires 2/3 vote of the Board. If there are less than 2/3 of the Board Members present, adding an item requires a unanimous vote. Added items will be placed for discussion at the end of the agenda.)

Rose Haro, RCA Administrative Manager, announced that there were no additions or revisions.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — May 1, 2017 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Banning
SECONDER:	District 2
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3
ABSENT:	City of Lake Elsinore, District 4
ABSTAIN:	District 5

8. CONSENT CALENDAR (All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member requests separate action on specific Consent Calendar item. The item will be pulled from the Consent Calendar and placed for discussion.)

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Menifee
SECONDER:	City of Moreno Valley
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5
ABSENT:	City of Lake Elsinore, District 4

8.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR APRIL 2017Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Report for April 2017.

8.2 FISCAL YEAR 2017 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORTOverview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2017 Third Quarter Financial Report.

8.3 FISCAL YEAR 2017 THIRD QUARTER CONSULTANT REPORTSOverview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Third Quarter Consultant Reports.

9. DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION, RCA – CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, reminded the Board that at the May 1, 2017 Board of Directors meeting the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, which included a new Director of Land Acquisition position, was approved. Chairman Ashley directed staff to take the Classification Specification for the Director of Land Acquisition position back to the Executive Committee for review. She advised that Executive Committee discussed the qualifications for the position. She gave a brief history of the position and how County Human Resources (HR) came up with the Classification Specification. She also explained the recruitment process and how the Candidate Requisition Form is used when requesting HR to require qualifications that are over and above the minimum qualifications contained in the Classification Specification. She gave examples of similar positions from several agencies showing that none of the agencies require a Licensed Broker or Real Estate Agent. She then asked for direction from the Board on the Classification Specification.

Staff was asked to clarify why this matter was before the Board when the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget approved at the May 1, 2017 Board meeting approved this position. Honey Bernas reiterated that although the Board approved the FY2018 budget, the Chairman referred the Classification Specification back to the Executive Committee for review and placement on the RCA Board of Directors' meeting agenda for June. It was stated that several Board Members were of the opinion that RCA does not need to fill this position and that merely changing the Classification Specification did not address that issue. Board Members discussed whether or not the candidate should be required to be a Licensed Broker or Real Estate Agent. The recommended motion was changed by Honey Bernas to receive and file after Board Members asked for clarification as to why the discussion of the Classification Specification was being reheard.

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to provide staff direction concerning the Director of Land Acquisition, RCA – Classification Specification.

Motion was changed by Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, to receive and file the Director of Land Acquisition, RCA – Classification Specification.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Corona
SECONDER:	City of Temecula
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, District 2, District 3, District 5
NAYS:	City of Canyon Lake, City of Jurupa Valley, City of Wildomar, District 1
ABSENT:	City of Lake Elsinore, District 4

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2017-006, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Charles Landry, Executive Director, presented this item. Establishing a refuge will allow RCA to access additional federal funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund has approximately \$900 million allocated annually, versus Section 6 acquisition which is approximately \$18 million annually.

The proposal is to establish a refuge in the eastern part of the Western Riverside County MSHCP where there is minimal population and development. The refuge will include land that RCA has already acquired and add additional land which is already described for conservation under the Plan. The MSHCP will not expand past the requirements of the Plan nor increase the footprint. The resolution starts the process for RCA to negotiate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This agenda item will return to the RCA Board of Directors after the study is accomplished, which takes a couple years, and negotiations have taken place.

Vice Chairman Ingram added that this refuge was discussed in great detail during the recent visit to Washington, D.C. He suggested the motion be changed to receive and file. He spoke to other Member Agencies and they would like an opportunity to sit at the negotiating table. He further commented that these acres are substantial, and this refuge will help get the MSHCP to its completion. The Federal Government is going to manage the land for perpetuity and allow RCA access, which places less stress on the MSHCP. The local control and authority will need to be negotiated.

Board Members expressed concerns with regard to access onto the refuge for trails, how wildfires will be fought on this land, and if air tankers would be restricted. They were also concerned about U.S. Fish and Wildlife going beyond the boundaries of the Plan Area.

Ed Sauls, representative from The Sauls Company, spoke in support of this item. He presented the history on how the Endangered Species Act came about. He suggested that Board of Directors proceed with the refuge and view it as a funding source. He suggested that conditions be placed on the refuge for access and that RCA use their acquisition process to obtain the land.

Charles Landry answered the concerns posed by the Board of Directors. He said that the MSHCP Acquisition procedures would be used, and there will be no need to establish another acquisition program. He further stated that during the negotiations the Board of Directors' concerns for fire safeguards, fire roads and access to trails will all be discussed and negotiated. The restrictions that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposes will be subject to negotiation as to RCA's local control of the refuge.

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2017-006, *Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Declaring Support for the Establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge within the Boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.*

Motion was made by Board Member Washington to continue this item off calendar.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	District 3
SECONDER:	City of San Jacinto
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, Temecula, District 1, District 2, District 3, District.5
ABSENT:	City of Lake Elsinore, District 4

After the vote was taken, Board Member Jeffries changed his vote from Abstained to Aye, change was recorded to reflect his vote.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

11.1 RCTC/RCA Joint Workshop - August 28, 2017

Charles Landry, Executive Director, reported that there will be a joint workshop with RCTC, which is tentatively scheduled for August 28, 2017. All members of the Board of Directors were encouraged to attend. He stated that the focus for this workshop is on Transportation and the MSHCP, but all aspects will be discussed.

11.2 Section 6 Update

Charles Landry, Executive Director, reported that the United States President's budget has zero dollars for acquisition under Section 6. He stated that this was not unusual and that the Congressional input will significantly help in obtaining funding for acquisitions. There should not be an expectation for more funds than what has been the amount for the last two years, which is \$18-19 million set aside for acquisitions.

12. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Charles Landry, Executive Director, stated that at the last RCA Board of Directors' meeting, it was reported that RCA had acquired 56,105 acres. Escrow has closed on two additional properties totaling approximately 38 acres, bringing the reserve total to approximately 56,143 acres.

13. FEATURED SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth "Betsy" Dionne, Ecological Resources Specialist, stated that this new feature to the Board of Directors meeting was requested by the Executive Committee on May 17, 2017. She said this will give the Board of Directors the opportunity to learn more about the different species that are covered under the Plan. The featured species for the month of June is the southern/western pond turtle. She gave the background of the turtle, and the monitoring and management activities for this species. After her presentation, she invited questions from the Board Members. Board Member Sobek asked if there has been any land acquired for the turtle's habitat within the Plan Area. Betsy Dionne responded in the affirmative. She stated that there are trappings taking place on what is commonly known as the Bolton property, which is west of Lake Mathews off Cajalco Road. RCA also acquired several properties in Murrieta known as the Winchester 700 and Richmond American, which have suitable habitat for the turtle. Both Murrieta Creek and Temecula Creek have been identified for the turtle and RCA has acquired land in the surrounding area. Board Members thanked her for a well-informed presentation.

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Vice Chairman Ingram asked if any Board Member had items for the next meeting. There were no requested items.

Vice Chairman requested that the board room be cleared for closed session and that the recording be turned off.

15. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

15.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Case No. MCC1300351 **JPR, Inc., dba Silverado Ranch Estates vs. California Department of Fish and Game; County of Riverside; Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority**

After Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened. There were no announcements from closed session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Vice Chairman Ingram adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Prepared by:



Rose Haro
RCA Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Honey Bernas
Director of Administrative Services