



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

Monday, May 1, 2006

1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Vice Chairman Jeff Stone at 1:03 p.m. in the Board Room at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, in Riverside, California, 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley
Bob Buster
Chris Buydos
Larry Dressel
Frank Hall
John Machisic
Shenna Moqet
Eugene Montanez
Robert Schiffner
Jeff Stone
John Tavaglione
Chuck Washington
Mark Yarbrough
John Zaitz

Board Member Absent

William Batey
Dom Betro
Robin Lowe
Kelly Seyarto
Roy Wilson

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions.

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6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (ASHLEY/ZAITZ) to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2006 as presented.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

7.1 Public Hearing Regarding Adoption of Resolution No. 06-06, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Adopting the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07

Joe Richards, Deputy Executive Director, stated that the proposed budget for FY 2006-07 totals \$58 million. Staff has budgeted \$54 million for Land Acquisition and \$2.2 million for Management/Monitoring. The \$2.2 million budgeted for Management/Monitoring includes funding for the two special studies (Economatrix and Programmatic Study) that RCA will be undertaking next fiscal year. For Administration, staff has proposed 3% of the total budget. He noted that the revenues appropriated in the proposed budget are 25% less than the projected revenues. This complies with the management audit recommendation to budget 90% of estimated revenues, as well as an additional 15% reduction for possible slowdown in collected development fees.

Bob Buster asked if a determination has been reached on whether the TUMF fees could only be used for land acquisition and how staff plans to handle the impact of receiving less than anticipated revenues.

Joe Richards advised that staff and Legal Counsel are currently discussing use of TUMF fees with WRCOG. He reiterated that because of the uncertainties in revenues, staff was very cautious in its proposal for revenues and expenditures. If there are any changes over the course of the fiscal year, an adjustment to the budget will be presented to the Board.

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John Tavaglione asked what the expenditures are covered under Total Contracts for Land Acquisition and Joe Richards stated that this line item includes any of the contract work associated with land acquisitions such as with Best, Best & Krieger, Dudek and Associates, as well as funding for the two special studies – Economatrix Study and Programmatic Study.

At this time, Vice Chairman Stone opened the public hearing. With no requests to speak on the proposed FY 2006-07 budget, the public hearing was closed.

M/S/C (TAVAGLIONE/BUYDOS) to approve Resolution No. 06-06 adopting the proposed Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Tom Mullen, Executive Director, commented on Agenda Item No. 8.2, Management Audit of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority. The management audit was approved by the Board and conducted by the County of Riverside Executive Office. They presented twenty (20) recommendations and found no fiscal abnormalities. With regard to the recommendation to adopt an organizational chart, he said that since this is administrative in nature, it should be dealt with by the Executive Director within the approved budget. In addition, with regard to the recommendation relating to the employment of County employees to perform RCA work, this is being reviewed at this time. RCA is in its early stages and this recommendation will be reviewed and evaluated as time goes on. He thanked the staff of the Executive Office for conducting a comprehensive audit.

Bob Buster asked as it relates to auditing purposes, how deep the RCA responsibility goes toward the fee system or if the cities and the county are solely responsible until the point when RCA receives the fees.

Tom Mullen stated that RCA, as a requirement by the State for joint powers agencies, will be conducting a separate audit of fees collected by the cities and the county. The audit will be presented to the Board once it is completed.

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In response to Chris Buydos' question whether staff plans to provide a report to the Board on the actions taken or being taken to comply with the audit recommendations, Tom Mullen said that a report specifically detailing the actions to implement the audit recommendations will be presented to the Board at the end of the first quarter of next fiscal year.

M/S/C (ZAITZ/ASHLEY) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

- 8.1** Consideration and Possible Approval of the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate for Fiscal Year 2006-07

Approve the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Estimate of Cost for FY 2006-07 in the amount of \$1,520,419.

- 8.2** Management Audit of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

Receive and file the audit report and endorse the actions in Exhibit A.

- 8.3** Amendment to Agreement with Environmental Careers Organization, Inc.

Approve the Amendment to the Agreement between the RCA and the Environmental Careers Organization, Inc. to take effect immediately until June 30, 2007.

- 8.4** Policy Regarding Uses and Activities on RCA-Owned Reserves

Approve the policy regarding Uses and Activities on RCA-Owned Reserves, recognizing that it will be refined and supplemented as the Reserve grows.

- 8.5** Amendment to Bylaws Regarding Agenda

Adopt Resolution No. 06-03 Amending the Authority's Bylaws regarding agenda setting.

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- 8.6** Cost Recovery Policy and Adoption of Resolution No. 06-05, Establishing a Policy for Reimbursement of Costs Related to Joint Project Review, Meet and Confer, Criteria Refinements to the MSHCP

Adopt Resolution No. 06-05 Establishing a Policy for Reimbursement of Costs related to Joint Project Review, Meet and Confer, Criteria Refinement, and MSHCP Amendments.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tom Mullen reported that as of this date, RCA has officially started the Core 2 Refinement Study.

10. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition and Management, informed the Board that RCA has title to additional 58 parcels, with a total of 27,550 acres in fee title to the MSHCP. Also, two (2) easements for open space have been recorded for an additional 25 acres.

11. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

At this time, Vice Chairman Stone mentioned an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., noting the importance of the trip to secure funding for the acquisition of open space for endangered species. He asked staff to provide information on meetings with legislative and congressional members, identification of federal plans that may be available, and the proposed dates for the trip.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

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12. CLOSED SESSION

12.1 Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Property: AP Nos. 473-200-008, 413-140-003

Negotiating Parties

Agency: Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgmt.

Property Owner: Moring

Under Negotiation: Price/Terms of Payment

The Board reconvened and there were no announcements from Closed Session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

Respectfully submitted,


for Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board