



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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MINUTES

Monday, April 2, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Jeff Stone at 1:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley
Dom Betro
Bob Buster
Larry Dressel
Frank Hall
Jim Hyatt
Robin Lowe
Eugene Montanez
John Machisic
Robert Schiffner
Jeff Stone
John Tavaglione
Gary Thomasian
Dale Stubblefield
Chuck Washington
Mark Yarbrough
John Zaitz

Board Members Absent

Bill Batey
Roy Wilson

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A) Michelle Randall spoke about observing off-road motorcycles and vehicles at the Stone Mountain and Lake Matthews reserves and the lack of security at the reserves. She related her efforts to secure the reserves by meeting with the representatives from the El Sobrante Landfill, Dos Lagos Subdivision and Metropolitan Water District, which borders the western side of the Lake Matthews preserve, and discussing their plans to secure access to the reserve by off road

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motorcycles and vehicles. In addition, she contacted the property owners of Dawson Canyon wherein she received authorization to fence off the motorcycle tracks, which will be completed within the next two weeks. She then submitted a CD showing aerial photographs of properties that off-road motorcycles and vehicles use as their entry points to the reserves.

In response to Ms. Randall's question as to the contact person for the Bureau of Land Management, Tom Mullen, Executive Director, stated that RCA staff will be contacting her with the information.

On behalf of the RCA Board, Chairman Stone expressed appreciation for her efforts toward safeguarding the reserves.

- B) Garry Grant, representing the Meadowbrook area, showed an area of preserved land that is being used by off-road motorcycles and vehicles. He indicated the need for public agencies to secure them and improve enforcement monitoring such uses at the reserves.

Chairman Stone informed those present that the County had entertained an off-road vehicle ordinance that succumbed to litigation and they are in the process of working out the details. There is also a sound ordinance, enforced by the Sheriff's Office, and they have ordered decibel readers for this purpose. The County is making great strides toward code enforcement as it relates to off-road vehicles and expects a sharing of duties between various departments and agencies to enforce this matter.

4. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board Member announcements.

5. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, requested that Agenda Item No. 3, *Agreement between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the County of Riverside to Provide Staffing and Services*, be continued.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (LOWE/ZAITZ) to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007 meeting as presented.

Abstained: Washington

7. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

7.1 RESCHEDULING THE MAY 7, 2007 AND JUNE 4, 2007 RCA BOARD MEETINGS

Reschedule the May meeting to May 14, 2007, and the June meeting to June 11, 2007.

7.3 FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Second Quarter Financial Report.

7.4 AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE SANTA ANA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

- 1) Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the Santa Ana Watershed Association; and
- 2) Authorize the Chairman to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Authority.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8.1 Preliminary Rough Step Numbers for 2006

Tom Mullen informed the RCA Board that the MSHCP requires that an annual report be provided on the Rough Step. The first report was for the first six (6) months from the signing of the permit from June 2004 through December 2004. The 2005 report covered the first full year. Staff believes that the information presented on losses covers periods

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prior to the issuance of the permit in June 2004. State and Federal agency staff voiced criticisms with regard to progress made on the Rough Step as presented in the 2004 report. The Rough Step is a measurement on the type of vegetation and how much development is occurring as it relates to the habitat being conserved. He noted that the Permit is a 75-year Permit and RCA has 25 years to assemble the 153,000 acres for the reserve to be funded by one-third state and federal, one-third local (which includes transportation funds from RCTC and Caltrans, as well as Development Mitigation Fees), and one-third through development contributions. The 2006 report is being compiled with the assistance of the member Permittees and their staff. He estimated that the final report will be published in approximately two weeks and distributed widely. Additionally, while the report shows two more areas out of Rough Step, it is important that it is only out by very small acreages within specific vegetation categories.

Pat Egetter, Chief of Technical Information, presented the preliminary Rough Step results. From the signing of the MSHCP, it was found that consistently 80% of the development is occurring outside of the cells. The report is through December 2006 and the results are as follows: In Rough Step Unit 1 there were no major changes since 2004; In Rough Step Unit 2 all vegetation categories remain in Rough Step; In Rough Step Unit 3 there was no change from the previous report, but the RCA recognizes that there is a need to focus on grasslands next year; In Rough Step Unit 4, there is improvement in coastal sage, grasslands and desert scrubs. Desert scrubs, which were a concern at one point, are now in Rough Step. Riparian Scrub and Riversidean Fan Sage Scrub are the other two that are out of Rough Step but are out by very acreage; Rough Step Unit 5 remains a major challenge in all vegetation categories; In Rough Step Unit 6 there has been improvement in grasslands with other vegetation categories out by small amounts; In Rough Step Unit 7 there have been some improvements with two vegetation categories out by small amounts; and, in Rough Step Unit 8, there were no major changes; however, there is a need to focus on grasslands. In summary, in 2006 a total of 9,873 acres were conserved and a total of 11,910 acres were approved for development. Since inception of the Plan, a total of 35,795 acres have been acquired, of which 30,990 are applied to the rough step calculations.

Tom Mullen noted that RCA is working with the Nature Conservancy relating to acquisitions in Rough Step Unit 5 area.

8.2 Update Regarding the RAND Contract

Tom Mullen advised the RCA Board of two change orders. The first change relates to creating expanded infrastructure bank to be used for transportation infrastructure.

Joe Richards said that the second change is a review of procedural and legal aspects of the MSHCP Plan, particularly as it related to the level of authority after the acquisitions are completed. The two tasks will add \$110,000 to the current contract amount with RAND and this amount is within the 15% contingency that was included in the original contract.

Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel, stated that an amendment to the contract is not required, because the amended contract cost is within the 15% contingency.

9. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition and Property Management, reported that since the RCA Board's last meeting, seven additional properties (four acquisitions and three donations) totaling 2,736 were acquired bringing the total acres conserved to 38,531.

At this time, Tom Mullen acknowledged the presence of Borre Winckel, Executive Director of the Building Industry Association, and distributed a copy of the editorial written by Mr. Winckel and published in The Press Enterprise.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

In response to a question by Board Member Jim Hyatt regarding maintenance and security of RCA reserve lands, Tom Mullen stated that staff discussed this issue with the County Code Enforcement Director. There is a need to coordinate efforts in this endeavor which may necessitate entering into a cooperative agreement with federal and state agencies. Coordination of the effort will be one of the tasks for the new division of RCA in the next fiscal year.

Board Member Jim Hyatt also inquired who owned El Casco Lakes just outside of Calimesa. Ken Graff stated that the owners of El Casco Lakes properties are State Parks and Riverside Land Conservancy. A portion of the lands border an RCA owned property. Staff has met with State Parks regarding assembling a management plan for the area.

At this time, the RCA Board convened to closed session.

11. CLOSED SESSION:

**Conference with Real Property Negotiator
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

- 11.1 Property:** Assessor's Parcel Nos. 391-790-012, 391-790-013
- Negotiating Parties**
- Agency Negotiator:** Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgt. or Designee
- Property Agent:** Deetz/Clayton Deetz
- Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms
- 11.2 Property:** Portion of Assessor's Parcel No. 932-170-015
- Negotiating Parties**
- Agency Negotiator:** Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgt. or Designee
- Property Agent:** Kelly/John Earnhart
- Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms
- 11.3 Property:** Assessor's Parcel No. 321-250-005
- Negotiating Parties**
- Agency Negotiator:** Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgt. or Designee
- Property Agent:** Johnson/Gary Johnson
- Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms
- 11.4 Property:** Assessor's Parcel No. 470-370-018
- Negotiating Parties**
- Agency Negotiator:** Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgt. or Designee
- Property Agent:** Baez/Haydee Baez
- Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms

After the Closed Session, the RCA Board meeting reconvened. There were no announcements.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m. He announced that the next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority will be held at 1:00 p.m., May 14, 2007, County Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board