



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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MINUTES

Monday, July 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

Bob Buster
Larry Dressel
Maryann Edwards
Frank Hall
Jim Hyatt
Darci Kuenzi
John Machisic
Eugene Montanez
Robert Schiffner
Jeff Stone
John Tavaglione
Gary Thomasian
Mark Yarbrough
John Zaitz

Board Members Absent

Bill Batey
Dom Betro
Robin Lowe
Dale Stubblefield
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/revisions to the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C (MACHISIC/MONTANEZ) to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2007 as presented.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (MONTANEZ/MACHISIC) to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

7.1 RCA LAND ACQUISITION ANALYST CLASS SPECIFICATION MODIFICATION

Adopt the revised RCA Land Acquisition Analyst class specification.

7.2 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-05, "A RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SIXTH AMENDED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT"

1. Adopt Resolution No. 07-05, "*Resolution Approving the Form of and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Sixth Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement*"; and
2. Authorize the Chairman, on behalf of the RCA Board of Directors, to sign the Sixth Amended JPA and forward it to the SDRM.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8A. ROUGH STEP REPORT

Tom Mullen, Executive Director, informed the RCA Board of Directors that staff will be presenting a Rough Step Report at their September 10, 2007 meeting.

8B. WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

A written report on meetings held in Washington, D.C., and follow-up actions were distributed to the RCA Board Members.

Chairman Stone reported on the meeting held with Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne. He commented on the importance of having an Executive Director with the background and expertise on Riverside County's MSHCP because this was essential in briefing the Secretary and providing his subordinates with an intuitive understanding on the way the Plan was designed to be implemented.

9. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Ken Graff, Director of Land Acquisition and Management, informed the RCA Board that twelve properties are in escrow and the total acres conserved remains at 39,043 acres.

At this time, Ken Graff presented a report on the management activities at the reserves. He said that at the inception of the MSHCP, approximately 350,000 acres were in National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, State Park, or other forms of public quasi-public (PQP) open space. The implementation of the MSHCP will add approximately 150,000 acres of new habitat reserves and open space, moves private ownership into PQP to be managed by the RCA. To protect the conservation area and resources, guidelines have been developed for passive recreational users which may include hiking, equestrian and mountain bike uses, bird watching, boating, fishing, photography, picnicking, scientific research, sunbathing and swimming. Active uses such as motorized OHVs (off highway vehicles) are not approved in RCA MSHCP reserved land but maybe approved in some PQP areas within the Plan area owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), County or the State. Recreational uses in the Plan are covered under Section 7 and the Plan recognizes that approximately 750 miles of the regional trails, five interpretative centers, fourteen trail heads and four maintenance facilities are going to be required. RCA has take authority under the Plan for up to 1,155 acres to accomplish these recreation and maintenance uses. The MSHCP area is divided into five management units. Most of the activities will occur in Management Units 2, 4 and 5. Unit 3 is primarily National Forest and not under RCA jurisdiction. Unit 2, located in the north central area that includes the Badlands and San Timoteo Canyon area, has multiple ownerships contributing to the Reserve which result in duplication in patrol, monitoring and management efforts. RCA staff has been working with State Parks, California Department of Fish and Games, BLM, Riverside Land Conservation, and County Parks to combine resources and minimize the duplication of effort. Unit 2 also contains several existing equestrian trails that are being identified and mapped and are categorized by skill levels. These trails will be reviewed to comply with the passive use standards of the MSHCP. Unit 5, in the southeastern area of Core 7, has numerous equestrian trails and in the south central area has potential for interpretative and visitor centers. Staff is working with volunteer Eagle Scout candidates to restore/construct new visitor kiosks in various view areas.

Eugene Montanez' asked if RCA could contract with a company to have standardized kits made so that they could be available to the volunteer Eagle Scouts and others. Ken Graff responded that in addition to the kiosk kits, staff is proposing that artificial kits for burrowing owls also be made available.

Tom Mullen stated that staff will report back to RCA Board on the kiosk and artificial burrow kits in October.

Ken Graff further advised that that recognizing the importance of vegetation management and fire prevention, RCA has contracted with Dave Driscoll, retired California Department

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of Forestry Region Chief, to assist in the creation of a vegetation management plan and fire hazard and preventative measures for the reserves. RCA is participating in the County of Riverside's Fire Hazard Reduction Task Force and noted the coordinated efforts by the U.S. and State Forest Service, BLM, and the County for fire response planning. An outreach planning effort will begin in the Fall of 2007 when Todd Elementary School, which is considered as a "green" school in the Corona-Norco Unified School District, is opened. RCA will periodically present programs on ecology and environment to the classrooms and as more interest is generated, it may be possible to set aside locations within the RCA reserves near the school campus for the students to take part in RCA species count under the supervision of the teacher and monitoring staff. Staff will continue to work toward apprising the public on RCA's habitat and land conservation programs.

Bob Buster stated that with RCA staff working on trails and activities on the reserves, he suggested that a brochure be developed and be made available to the public.

Jim Hyatt asked if the program being offered to Todd Elementary School would also be available to other schools. Tom Mullen said that the Corona-Norco Unified School District has identified Todd Elementary School as a "green" school and they are developing curriculum that would incorporate the MSCHP. This is a pilot program and hopefully the program can be featured in other schools in the future.

On behalf of the RCA Board, Chairman Stone thanked Ken Graff for the great presentation.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no requests for the next meeting. At this time, Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting 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. 321-330-008, 321-330-009
	Negotiating Parties	
	Agency Negotiator:	Director of Land Acquisition and Property Mgt. or Designee
	Property Agent:	Roth/John Roth
	Under Negotiation:	Price/Terms

At 1:17 p.m., Chairman Stone reconvened the meeting and reported that there were no Closed Session announcements.

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12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administrative Center, First Floor, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas
Clerk of the Board