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## MEETING MINUTES

### May 2, 2011

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Jeff Stone at 1:02 p.m. in the Board Room, Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tom Fuhrman led the RCA Board Members and those present in a flag salute.

#### 3. ROLL CALL

##### Board Members/Alternates Present

Marion Ashley  
Kevin Bash  
Ben Benoit  
Roger Berg  
Randy Bonner  
Bob Buster  
Maryann Edwards  
Thomas Fuhrman  
Mike Gardner  
Jim Hyatt  
Linda Krupa  
Alan Long  
John Machisic  
Melissa Melendez  
Scott Miller  
Eugene Montanez  
Jeff Stone  
John Tavaglione

##### Board Members Absent

Bill Batey  
John Benoit  
Mark Yarbrough

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1) Vicki Long of Murrieta, California, spoke about her efforts for the past 30 years to save mountain lions as well as her association with University of California @ Davis relating to the study of mountain lions. She expressed her appreciation to the County of Riverside for not consenting to a proposal by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to allow the hunting of

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mountain lions in the County, especially in the Santa Ana mountain range. In addition, she is grateful for RCA's efforts for conservation of mountain lions through the MSHCP. She informed the RCA Board that the mountain lions species has a very high mortality rate (62%). She is currently working with Dr. Winston Vickers of UC Davis on a study of the mountain lions and spoke about Dr. Vickers' involvement with the San Diego Association of Governments (mountain lion crossings for the Ortega Highway) and with Orange County (Route 241). She requested that the RCA Board afford Dr. Vickers the opportunity to make a presentation to the Board about his study. Dr. Vickers will be available in July and would be available to make a presentation at a workshop or at RCA's regular meeting.

Chairman Stone requested that Vicki Long provide Dr. Vickers' contact information to staff so that a presentation could be arranged.

- 2) MaryAnn Shushan Miller of Murrieta, California, presented comments that were written by Michele A. Staples, a member of the Jackson DeMarco & Peckenpaugh law firm, dated March 20, 2002, on behalf of the Dominegonis regarding the Riverside County's Preliminary Administrative Draft MSHCP and Implementation Agreement, concluding that the "*The MSHCP, as presently drafted, simply is too complicated and fails to incorporate the property owner protections and assurances, as previously committed...*" She also read the written comments by Ken Whitlock, a Murrieta resident, regarding his experience with the current process in place to develop his property. (The written comments were submitted to RCA.)

### **5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Board Member announcements.

### **6. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS**

Staff noted a revision to Page 2 of the minutes.

### **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***M/S/C (MELENDEZ/EDWARDS) to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors, as revised.***

### **8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **8.1 FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

- 1) Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Second Quarter Financial Report;

- 2) Approve the budget adjustments contained in the attached Exhibit A; and
- 3) Authorize the Chairman to direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustments contained in Exhibit A.

**8.2 RESOLUTION NO. 11-005, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD FOR THE MULTIPLE PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS**

Approve Resolution No. 11-005 authorizing the acceptance of grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

**8.3 RAMONA DUCK CLUB CONSERVATION EASEMENT – SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA**

Receive and file the staff report on the Ramona Duck Club Conservation Easement – San Jacinto Wildlife area.

**9. RESOLUTION NO. 11-004, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET**

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, stated that the proposed FY 2011-12 RCA Operating and Capital Budget reflects conservative revenue estimates and the greatest possible expense reductions while still maintaining minimum operating levels to meet RCA's obligations under the MSHCP. The proposed RCA Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12 consist of: 1) \$12.2 Million Revenues; 2) \$13.4 Million Expenditures; and, 3) \$1.2 Million Draw on Cash for previously Board-approved property acquisitions. Changes to the projected revenue proposal included a 39% reduction to total revenue, 55% donation decrease, 55% reduction of grant funding, and a \$280,000 increase for civic and infrastructure (based on Permittee projections) and 18% tipping fee revenue increase. There is a 43% overall reduction in budgeted appropriations which included a 63% decrease in land acquisition and a 3% reduction for proposed contracts. She noted that no changes to RCA's staffing level are proposed.

In response to Melissa Melendez's question regarding the vacation leave accrual benefit, Honey Bernas said that the employees may accumulate up to 1,800 hours.

Jim Hyatt asked about the possibility of changing the maximum vacation accrual benefit, and Chairman Stone stated that the County is currently reviewing employee benefit packages and will update RCA on any changes.

***M/S/C (LONG/BUSTER) to adopt Resolution No. 11-004, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority adopting the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Operating and Capital Budget.***

**10. RECURRING CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12**

Honey Bernas said that over the last three years, RCA has reduced the number of recurring contracts and contract amounts where possible. She noted that the proposed recurring contract amount for FY 2011-12 is a 7.5% reduction from the previous year. She then reviewed the list contracts proposed for approval and noted that the approval of the recurring contracts will allow RCA to maintain current levels of service.

***M/S/C (MONTANEZ/HYATT) to:***

- 1) Approve the recurring contracts for Fiscal Year 2011-12; and***
- 2) Authorize the Chairman to execute said agreements on behalf of the Authority.***

**11. BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM WORK PLAN AND COST ESTIMATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12**

Laurie Correa, Director of Reserve Management and Monitoring, reviewed the proposed Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate for Fiscal Year 2011-12. The MSHCP requires the submission of an annual work plan and cost estimate to implement the Monitoring Program and the work plan and budget must be approved by the RCA Board, as part of the annual RCA budget. For FY 2011-12, the cost to support the work plan is \$1,677,843, which includes California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) funded labor and supplies in the amount of \$339,954 and Federal State Wildlife Grant funding in the amount of \$550,556. The net cost to RCA is \$787,345. The savings from FY 2010-11, as a result of SWG (State Wildlife Grant) funding, is being programmed towards the purchase of two used vehicles to replace the current CDFG vehicles with relatively high mileage that the CDFG may not continue to provide after their eight year obligation ends.

***M/S/C (TAVAGLIONE/MONTANEZ ) to approve the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate for Fiscal Year 2011-12 in the amount of \$1,677,843, of which \$787,345 will be paid by RCA funds.***

**12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**12.1 LOAN PROGRAM UPDATE**

Charlie Landry informed the RCA Board that the proposed loan program legislation was introduced to the Senate. It will be introduced to Congress by

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Congressman Ken Calvert at an appropriate time. Staff and RCA's Washington Consultants will continue to work with Senator Dianne Feinstein's office. Public hearings on the proposal will be set sometime this year.

**13. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, informed the RCA Board that an additional 304 acres were acquired bringing the total reserved land to 43,412 acres. He reviewed the Wilhelm acreage that was recently added to the reserve.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items before the RCA Board of Directors, Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

Respectfully submitted,



Honey Bernas  
Clerk of the Board