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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 14, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chair Ingram at 12:36 p.m., Monday, September 14, 2020, via Zoom, at the RCA Conference Room, 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 320, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Member Agency	Board Member Name	Status
City of Banning**	Daniela Andrade***	Present
City of Banning	Colleen Wallace (Alternate)***	Present
City of Beaumont	Julio Martinez***	Present
City of Calimesa	Ed Clark***	Present
City of Canyon Lake**	Larry Greene***	Present
City of Corona	Jacque Casillas***	Present
City of Eastvale	Jocelyn Yow	Absent
City of Hemet	Michael Perciful***	Present
City of Jurupa Valley	Lorena Barajas***	Present
City of Lake Elsinore	Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair***	Present
City of Menifee	Lesa Sobek***	Present
City of Moreno Valley	David Marquez***	Present
City of Murrieta	Jonathan Ingram, Chair***	Present
City of Norco**	Kevin Bash***	Present
City of Perris	David Starr Rabb***	Present
City of Riverside	Andy Melendrez***	Present
City of San Jacinto**	Crystal Ruiz***	Present
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Absent
City of Wildomar	Joseph Morabito***	Present
County District 1**	Kevin Jeffries***	Present
County District 2**	Karen Spiegel***	Present
County District 3	Chuck Washington	Absent
County District 4	V. Manuel Perez	Absent
County District 5**	Jeff Hewitt	Present

* Arrived after roll call was taken ** Departed before meeting adjourned *** via teleconference

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. CLOSED SESSION**5A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Agency Negotiator: RCA – Interim Executive Director or Designee

Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor No(s).	Parcel	Negotiating Party(ies)/Agent
5A.1	935-150-012		Susie M. Startup/Cherie Juengst
5A.2	Portion of 583-170-007		State of California (CalTrans Highway 79)
5A.3	909-322-005		Fresh Start Homes, LLC/James Bishay
5A.4	Portion of 966-140-003		Redhawk Communities Inc. who acquired title as RH Acquisition Company/Ed Sauls, Garret Sauls
5A.5	473-110-017, 473-110-018		Kevin Bush/John Culton, Ed Sauls, Garret Sauls

5B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Title: Executive Director

After Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened. Steve DeBaun, General Counsel, announced the following with respect to agenda item 5A. There was no reportable action for agenda item 5B.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 5A.1 – APN 935-150-012, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 6.47 acres of real property for \$120,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 5A.2 – Portion of APN 583-170-007, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 20.62 acres of real property for \$68,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 5A.3 – APN 909-322-005, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 10.02 acres of real property for \$850,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 5A.4 – Portion of APN 966-140-003, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 34.17 acres of real property for \$311,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 5A.5 – APN 473-110-017 and 473-110-018, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 79.74 acres of real property for \$370,000.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [19 TO 0]
MOVER:	San Jacinto
SECONDER:	Banning
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 5
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Eastvale, Temecula, District 3, District 4

6. 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.)

There were no Board Member announcements.

7. 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.)

There were no additions or revisions.

8. LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW AND UPDATES

Representatives from Kadesh and Associates and Hogan Lovells US, LLP presented a legislative update. Dave Ramey gave a brief overview and update regarding the National Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition. He stated that the Coalition gives RCA multistate leverage on conservation issues. He also stated that with Section 6 grants, they were able to break the \$2 million grant funding cap allowing RCA to be awarded \$10 million for the 2019 grant year.

Doug Wheeler gave a brief overview and update regarding two important developments. He stated that Congress enacted, and the President signed, the "Great American Outdoors Act" (GAOA). The GAOA is comprised of two parts: a permanent extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as a true trust fund, meaning that \$900 million can be expended annually by the federal resource agencies on conservation programs and grants to the states without need of further appropriation by the Congress. The RCA will benefit from a likely increase in LWCF funding because it is an important source of dollars for Section 6 (land acquisition) grants, and LWCF funds can be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire new refuge lands. When the Western

Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge is established, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can use its share of LWCF funding to acquire habitat in addition to that which is transferred to it for refuge purposes by the RCA. The second component of GAOA provides \$1.9 billion annually, over five years, for deferred maintenance of infrastructure on public lands. This could also benefit the new Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge once established.

He further stated that the second development has to do with authorization of the new Refuge. The Refuge bill, sponsored by Representatives Calvert, Takano, and Aguilar, was reported favorably with the House Natural Resources Committee and then enacted by the House as an amendment to H.R. 2, a stimulus package. The bill has not been passed by the Senate. In the development of the House bill, it has received signals of support from the offices of Senators Feinstein and Harris. When the House-passed bill is considered in one form or another by the Senate, the Refuge language should encounter no opposition.

Lastly, the fate of the proposal to authorize Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loans for the acquisition of HCP habitat is dependent on the extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which expires at the end of September. Our proposal is included in S. 2302, the five-year FAST extension which has been approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). However, the House wants only a one-year extension of FAST, without new policy amendments. He stated that they had hoped to prevail in a conference to resolve differences between two FAST bills, but it appears that the Senate may accept a one-year extension, eliminating the necessity of a conference, and the inclusion of the amendment.

Chair Ingram stated that when RCA receives Section 6 grants there is a state match. He also stated that he is interested to knowing how RCA can access TIFIA funding. He further asked for an update on wildfire funding for RCA.

Dave Ramey stated that they are reviewing different options for fire mitigation, however, there are not a lot of direct fits for MSHCPs. He stated that they are looking at FEMA for pre-mitigation grants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a backlog of unspent planning grant funds due to a lack of new HCPs being developed. He stated that they are working to see if those grants can be modified to disaster mitigation grants. They are also looking to see if the grants could be modified to allow for mitigation work.

Chris Kierig discussed the current work by the Congress on budget appropriations. He stated that it looks like a one-year extension is going to be approved for the FAST Act and both Chambers are working on the Continuing Resolution for FY20.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — June 11, 2020, meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [18 TO 0]
MOVER:	Wildomar
SECONDER:	Canyon Lake
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 5
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Moreno Valley
ABSENT:	Eastvale, Temecula, District 3, District 4

At this time, Chair Ingram pulled agenda item 12 out of order for discussion at the request of the Board due to time restraints.

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CHANGE RCA'S MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Honey Bernas, Interim Executive Director, reported that staff has been exploring options to best position the agency and ensure the future success of the MSHCP. On August 5, the RCA Executive Committee discussed exploring the possibility of RCTC becoming RCA's managing agency and voted unanimously to request that RCTC consider becoming RCA's managing agency. That decision was communicated to all RCA Board Members in a memo from Chair Ingram that same day.

RCTC responded positively to the request from the RCA Executive Committee, and on August 12, the RCTC Executive Committee acted to initiate a due diligence review to analyze the opportunity. The decision by the RCA Executive Committee to propose the management transition grew out of internal discussions on how to best position the agency going forward to ensure the success of the MSHCP. The successful implementation of the MSHCP is paramount to maintaining the permits from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department Fish and Wildlife. The permits are critical in achieving future economic, transportation, and conservation goals for western Riverside County.

She stated that both agencies have a shared vested interest in the success of the MSHCP, including the acquisition of reserve lands for habitat protection and expediting the development of transportation infrastructure.

Ms. Bernas continued her presentation reviewing the purpose and rationale for the exercise. She stated that in discussing this option, the RCA Executive Committee saw an opportunity to generate significant benefits for both RCA and RCTC, and for taxpayers. From RCA's perspective, transitioning to RCTC's management structure could generate future new funding opportunities, including grants and other future revenue streams. She stated the funding is a critical issue for RCA and will be strengthened by an alignment with RCTC.

She stated that there is an obvious synergy between the RCA and RCTC and shared goals to implement the MSHCP and maintain the permits, which are both integral to each

agencies' missions. Both agencies excel in land acquisitions and their shared expertise and experience is unmatched by any other agency. RCTC maintains strong productive partnerships with the same state and federal agencies that RCA routinely works with. Additionally, it appears that the state is continuing to move in a direction that is enhancing the link between conservation mitigation and new transportation infrastructure so this alignment in the agencies' missions will grow stronger in the future.

She stated that cost efficiencies could be achieved by both agencies by streamlining and consolidating some of the functions. There will be a significant initial cost to RCA if the merger is implemented; however, potential savings could be achieved in the long term. It will be difficult to quantify the cost savings prior to the merger, but RCA and RCTC have identified areas where significant efficiencies could be realized. For example, there are duplications in consultant contracts for lobbying, legal services, and land acquisition services.

She further stated that if this moves forward, the RCA would retain its own Board of Directors and continue its mission to acquire conservation land to implement the MSHCP and maintain the permits. RCTC has concluded that the transition would result in all RCA staff members being offered a position with RCTC, with the exception of the Executive Director position, which will be eliminated as a cost efficiency. RCTC, through its Executive Director, would assume the duties of the RCA Executive Director.

The next steps include both agencies continuing with the due diligence period. RCTC staff will bring an update to the RCTC Executive Committee on October 14, 2020. RCA staff will bring updates to the RCA Executive Committee on September 16, 2020, and October 21, 2020. No final decision has been made by either Executive Committee to take the action forward to their respective Boards. Potential actions by both full Boards are not anticipated until November, and ultimately, the final decision remains with the RCA Board and the RCTC Board.

Chair Ingram asked if the Board had any questions. With no questions being asked, Chair Ingram asked for a motion to continue the process to review the proposed change to the RCA's managing agency.

Board Member Martinez asked if there would be more time for discussion and information when the item is brought before the Board for a decision.

Chair Ingram stated that this is just an update on the possibility of a change to the managing entity and staff will bring more information forward.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO RCA'S MANAGEMENT AGENCY [19 TO 0]
MOVER:	Canyon Lake
SECONDER:	Moreno Valley
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 5
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Eastvale, Temecula, District 3, District 4

At this time, the Board moved back to the Consent Calendar items.

- 10. 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.)**

Representatives from Norco, San Jacinto, District 1, District 2, and District 5 departed the meeting at the start of this item.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [14 TO 0]
MOVER:	Menifee
SECONDER:	Banning
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Eastvale, Norco, San Jacinto, Temecula, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5

10.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORTS FOR MAY, JUNE, AND JULY 2020

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Reports for May, June, and July 2020.

10.2 FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOURTH QUARTER CONSULTANT REPORTS

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2020 Fourth Quarter Consultant Reports.

10.3 FISCAL YEAR 2020 PRELIMINARY FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Fourth Quarter Financial Report (Unaudited).

10.4 AMENDMENT TO LAND ACQUISITION POLICIESOverview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to approve the amendment to the Land Acquisition Policies.

10.5 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-010, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTYOverview

This Item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2020-010, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property. The approval shall be conditional upon the Board's approval, in closed session, of the proposed purchase.

11. RESOLUTION NO. 2020-011, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TAX DEFAULTED PROPERTY FROM THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Brian Beck, Land Acquisition Analyst, presented Resolution 2020-011 approving the purchase of tax defaulted property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector. He stated that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has authorized the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office to sell tax defaulted property for purposes of collecting back taxes and penalties. RCA staff has reviewed the tax default parcel list and has identified five parcels that are desirable for habitat conservation. The subject properties are located in unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including Gavilan Hills, Estelle Mountain, Cactus Valley, and Sage.

He stated that the subject properties total approximately 114 acres and will contribute to RCA's reserve assembly goals. The total purchase price is \$254,432.46, or approximately \$2,232 per acre. Staff has analyzed the RCA's cash flow and finds that this proposed purchase of tax defaulted properties is consistent with the RCA Board of Director's Economic Stabilization Policy.

He further stated that the acquisition of the land was originally budgeted for and pursued in FY2020. Accordingly, this was not included in the FY2021 Budget. RCA staff recommends an increase in appropriations of \$254,500 in the Land Acquisition Program to facilitate the acquisition of this property. Staff is requesting the increase in appropriations with the use of restricted Capital Project Fund Balance which is estimated at \$20.1 million as of June 30, 2020.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [14 TO 0]
MOVER:	Canyon Lake
SECONDER:	Corona
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Wildomar
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Eastvale, Norco, San Jacinto, Temecula, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2020-011, Resolution of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Approving the Purchase of Tax Defaulted Property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office;
- 2) Approve the budget adjustment contained in Exhibit A; and
- 3) Authorize the Chairman to direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustment contained in Exhibit A.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(NO BUSINESS)

Representative from Canyon Lake departed the meeting at the start of this item.

14. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

There was no Land Acquisition update.

15. FEATURED SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth "Betsy" Dionne, Ecological Resources Specialist, stated that the featured species for the month of September is the California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia Californica*). She then gave an overview of the California Orcutt Grass characteristics, where it is typically found, and how RCA manages for the species.

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: (Board Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for future discussion.)

No future agenda items were suggested.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Chair Ingram adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2020, at 12:30 p.m., at the John F. Tavaglione County Administrative Center Annex, Board Chambers, First Floor, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Prepared by:



April Boydd
Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Jennifer Fuller
Director of Administrative Services