



MEETING AGENDA

TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. / Monday, April 5, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, (March 18, 2020), the meeting will only be conducted via video conferencing and by telephone. Please follow the instructions on the following page to join the meeting remotely.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair – Natasha Johnson

Vice Chair – Jeff Hewitt

Kevin Jeffries, County of Riverside, District 1
Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside, District 2
Chuck Washington, County of Riverside, District 3
V. Manuel Perez, County of Riverside, District 4
Jeff Hewitt, County of Riverside, District 5
Colleen Wallace / David Happe, City of Banning
Julio Martinez / Mike Lara, City of Beaumont
Jeff Cervantez / Bill Davis, City of Calimesa
Larry Greene / Jeremy Smith, City of Canyon Lake
Tony Daddario / Wes Speake, City of Corona
Jocelyn Yow / Todd Rigby, City of Eastvale
Linda Krupa / To Be Appointed, City of Hemet
Lorena Barajas / Leslie Altamirano, City of Jurupa Valley
Natasha Johnson / Bob Magee, City of Lake Elsinore
Lesa Sobek / Bob Karwin, City of Meniffee
David Marquez / To Be Appointed, City of Moreno Valley
Jonathan Ingram / Christi White, City of Murrieta
Kevin Bash / Katherine Aleman, City of Norco
David Starr Rabb / Malcolm Corona, City of Perris
Erin Edwards / Patricia Lock Dawson, City of Riverside
Crystal Ruiz / Phil Ayala, City of San Jacinto
Maryann Edwards / Zak Schwank, City of Temecula
Ben J. Benoit / Joseph Morabito, City of Wildomar

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

www.wrc-rca.org

MEETING AGENDA*

***Actions may be taken on any item listed on the agenda**

12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 5, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, (March 18, 2020), the Board meeting will only be conducted via video conferencing and by telephone. Please follow the instructions below to join the meeting remotely.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rctc.zoom.us/j/82388892144>

Call in: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 823 8889 2144

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,82388892144#

For members of the public wishing to submit comment in connection with the Board of Directors Meeting please email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at lmobley@rctc.org prior to April 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and your comments will be made part of the official record of the proceedings. Members of the public may also make public comments through their telephone or Zoom connection when recognized by the Chair.

In compliance with the Brown Act and Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed 72 hours prior to the meeting, which are public records relating to open session agenda items, will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting on the RCA's website, www.wrc-rca.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Government Code Section 54954.2, Executive Order N-29-20, and the Federal Transit Administration Title VI, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (951) 787-7141 if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, including accessibility and translation services. Assistance is provided free of charge. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time will assist staff in assuring reasonable arrangements can be made to provide assistance at the meeting.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Under the Brown Act, the Board should not take action on or discuss matters raised during public comment portion of the agenda that are not listed on the agenda. The Board members may refer such matters to staff for factual information or to be placed on the subsequent agenda for consideration.*

5. 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 to the agenda requires a unanimous vote. Added items will be placed for discussion at the end of the agenda.*

6. CLOSED SESSION

6A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Agency Negotiator: Executive Director or Designee

Item	Property Description	Property Owner	Buyer(s)
1	915-480-008	Hui Hwang	RCA
2	932-180-014, 932-180-015, 932-200-024	Hannis L. Stoddard, et al	RCA

6B. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

7. CONSENT CALENDAR – *All matters on the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member(s) requests separate action on specific item(s).*

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2021

Page 1

7B. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT

Page 8

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for February 2021.

7C. ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 2021-009 AND 2021-010 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Page 10

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to adopt Resolution Nos. 2021-009 and 2021-010 Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property.

7D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Page 13

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Receive and file an update on state and federal legislation; and
- 2) Adopt the following bill positions:
 - a) HR 972 (Calvert) - Support.

8. UPDATE ON STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS FOR RESERVE ACQUISITION

Page 19

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file an update on state and federal grants for reserve acquisition.

9. NEW ONLINE CONSERVATION DASHBOARD DEMONSTRATION

Page 22

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the New Online Conservation Dashboard Demonstration.

10. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Overview

This item provides the opportunity for the Board of Directors and the Executive Director to report on attended meetings/conferences and any other items related to Commission activities.

- Nexus Study Implementation Update
- Management Transition Update

11. PRESENTATION – SPECIES OF THE MONTH

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, May 3, 2021**, via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEM 7A

MINUTES

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 1, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting was called to order by Chair Natasha Johnson at 12:33 p.m., via Zoom Meeting ID 871 0049 3609, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors/Alternates Present

Kevin Jeffries
Karen Spiegel
Jeff Hewitt
Colleen Wallace
Julio Martinez
Jeff Cervantez
Larry Greene
Tony Daddario
Jocelyn Yow
Linda Krupa
Lorena Barajas

Natasha Johnson
Lesia Sobek
David Marquez
Jonathan Ingram
Kevin Bash
David Starr Rabb
Crystal Ruiz
Maryann Edwards

Board of Directors Absent

Chuck Washington
V. Manuel Perez
Erin Edwards
Ben J. Benoit

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Natasha Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests to speak from the public.

5. ADDITIONS / REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR** - *All matters on the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member(s) requests separate action on specific item(s).*

M/S/C (Edwards/Ingram) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 1, 2021

6B. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for January 2021.

6C. FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

- 1) Receive and file the FY 2020/21 Second Quarter Financial Report;
- 2) Approve the budget adjustment to increase expenditures \$74,539 for consultant services; and
- 3) Authorize the Chair to direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustment in the amount of \$74,539.

6D. CONSULTANT REPORTS -FISCAL YEAR 2021 SECOND QUARTER

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the consultant reports for Fiscal Year 2021 Second Quarter.

6E. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 21-01 RELATED TO PROCUREMENT POLICY MANUAL

- 1) Approve the revised Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Agency (RCA) Procurement Policy Manual (PPM) for the procurement and contracting activities undertaken by the agencies, pursuant to legal counsel review as to conformance to state and federal law; and
- 2) Adopt Ordinance No. 21-01, "*Ordinance of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Agency Regarding the Revised Procurement Policy Manual*".

6F. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-006 TO AMEND BYLAWS WITH REGARD TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PURCHASING AUTHORITY AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

- 1) Following the completion of the four-week noticing period required in Article XIII(B) of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Bylaws, approve the proposed amendments to the RCA Bylaws; and

- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-006, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Amending Its Bylaws with Regard to the Executive Director’s Purchasing Authority and Other Administrative Changes”*.

7. CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Steve DeBaun, legal counsel, announced the Board will be going in to Closed Session to discuss the two property items on the agenda.

7A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Agency Negotiator: Executive Director or Designee

Item	Property Description	Property Owner	Buyer(s)
1	470-070-022	Eddy Konno	RCA
2	569-100-001	Girdhari S. Purohit	RCA

7B. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mr. DeBaun announced the Board considered and approved the following closed session items:

Item 1: acquisition of the property was approved for \$110,000

Item 2: acquisition of the property was approved for \$970,000

8. 2021 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lisa Mobley, Administrative Services Manager/Clerk of the Board, noted correspondence had been received in support of this item from Mr. Dan Silver, Executive Director of the Endangered Habitats League. The correspondence was forwarded to Board Members.

David Knudsen, Legislative Affairs Manager, provided a presentation with an overview of the Legislative Affairs program, a summary of the activities taking place at the state and federal level, and the draft 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform.

Board Member Sobek thanked Mr. Knudsen for the presentation, and the plan that was laid out as we move forward.

M/S/C (Greene/Sobek) to:

- 1) Receive a presentation summarizing the RCTC Legislative Affairs program;
- 2) Receive and file an update on state and federal legislation; and
- 3) Adopt the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform for Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA).

9. PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF AN RCA LEGACY HOME REBATE PILOT PROGRAM

Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director, provided a presentation on the RCA Legacy Home Rebate Program, detailing the partial rebate pilot program for property owners building a new home on land that was owned prior to the inception of the MSHCP. The pilot rebate program would be administered by the RCA and would start in Fiscal Year 2023, with a budget cap and a sunset date.

Ms. Mobley noted correspondence was received in opposition of this item from Mr. Dan Silver, Executive Director of the Endangered Habitats League.

Board Member Jeffries commended staff on their efforts on assembling all the different ideas and concepts, while also minimizing the financial impact, as well as helping original landowners.

Board Member Martinez thanked staff for listing out the pros and cons for this proposal. While Mr. Martinez thought this was a good compromise from what Board Member Jeffries asked for, this program would be creating loopholes, which would compromise and circumvent the Nexus Study.

Board Member Ingram believes this will be an equitable solution. This program would be beneficial for landowners who have been waiting to build on their properties, and with the checks and balances put in place, the RCA should not see abuse of the program.

Chair Johnson echoed Board Member Ingram’s comment, noting this was a great collaboration of many different ideas and opinions on how the RCA could formulate a successful program.

M/S/C (Jeffries/Ingram) to:

No: Martinez

- 1) Approve an RCA Legacy Home Rebate Pilot Program; and**
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-007, “Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Adopting an RCA Home Legacy Rebate Pilot Program”.**

10. PRESENTATION – GETTING TO KNOW THE MSHCP

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, presented an overview of the Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) Lands and Additional Reserve Lands (ARL). PQP are the 347,000 acres that were included in the MSHCP at inception in 2004. ARL still needs 153,000 acres, once those acres are acquired, no further reserve assembly will be required. When the plan is complete, the total acreage of the PQP and ARL are 500,000.

Board Member Sobek inquired if the list of 146 species is ever reviewed to see if any additional species should be added. Ms. Campbell noted that adding a species to the MSHCP would be a

major amendment. When the plan was being formed, the RCA looked ahead at species that were not listed by the State or Federal Government, in hopes of not having to ever make a major amendment to the plan.

Board Member Bash mentioned when he first joined the RCA Board, he was able to take a tour of the conservation lands in the County, a similar tour would be helpful for the newer Board Members.

11. 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, presented the Annual Report for January to December 2019. During 2019, a total of 1,481 acres were acquired, donated, or obtained by the RCA. Since plan inception, the RCA has acquired a total of 61,819 acres of ARL. During 2019, a total of 2,136 acres of new development were approved within the MSHCP area. The losses in cumulative habitat since the adoption of the MSHCP have been 81% outside the criteria cells, and 19% inside the cells.

Conservation of ARL for each jurisdiction was presented, and in early March the RCA website will also have a dashboard feature with this information. It is possible that more acreage can be lost than gained, because conservation occurs only in the criteria cells, and how the gains are calculated considers many variables. The MSHCP needs to ensure there is enough habitat protected for 146 species, and these species and the habitats they rely on do not distribute evenly across the plan area. The gains and losses need to be in step with one another geographically, by vegetation, and hydrologically among other factors.

Analysis of the gains and losses are done through the rough step analysis, and the plan area is split into nine Rough Step Units. The RCA takes the acquisition and losses data provided from the cities and county annually and runs it through the rough step formula. The analysis shows at the end of 2019, we are out of rough step in Units 3, 5, 7 and 8. Being out of rough step calls us to action in these four units. The RCA is currently engaged in acquiring the necessary land and actively pursuing willing buyers to move the units back into rough step.

Along with acquiring land for the MSHCP, the RCA is also responsible for the management of over 43,000 acres of ARL.

Board Member Ingram inquired as to the status of the rough step areas at the MSHCP inception, and whether these units falling out of rough step happened over this year or were an issue when the plan started. Ms. Campbell noted that only Rough Step Unit 8 has been out of rough step since the inception of MSHCP, though Rough Step Unit 7 has had issues over the last several years.

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan 2019 Annual Report.

12. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

13. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Overview

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, provided a Nexus Study Implementation update, in which the RCA has been focusing on communication both with member agencies as well as interested stakeholders. For member agencies there have been one-on-one meetings, a series of meetings and presentations for the public works and planning directors, communications with economic development staff, and in the coming weeks there will be another presentation for the city managers to ensure staff at the cities are fully informed on the Nexus Study. There have also been technical conversations with staff at each of the jurisdictions, to address questions related to the process and feedback was received on some of the technical language in the implementation manual. As a result of those conversations, some administrative changes will be brought forward to address the concerns raised by member agencies. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet and templates for staff reports have been provided to member agencies.

Meetings to receive feedback have been held with stakeholders and those in the development community. Some of their concerns have been addressed, though many of the discussions are based on a deferral of the fee or an elimination of the fee increase, as well as a question of pre-payment of the fees.

The focus for now is communicating, sharing information, and providing listening sessions. Chair Natasha Johnson has sent out communication to all jurisdictions in Western Riverside County, as well as all local Chamber of Commerce offices

Chair Johnson reiterated that now is the time for communication and gathering information. An effort is being made currently to over-communicate, which is a result of the feedback received that it was lacking. Chair Johnson called on each Board Member to assist in making sure their colleagues and those that are at the table in their communities are aware of the Nexus Study update. The previously provided FAQ sheet provides great discussion points and helps guide the conversation about the update. This update is integral to the MSHCP, and it is important to receive feedback and have discussions about the changes that were made.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for consideration by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, April 5, 2021**, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Mobley
Administrative Services Manager/
Clerk of the Board

AGENDA ITEM 7B

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	April 5, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Fee Collection Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for February 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Western Riverside County MSHCP Local Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) collections provide funding for the acquisition of additional reserve lands and related costs. RCA budgeted \$10.5 million in LDMF collections for FY 2020/21. Attached is the Collection and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution LDMF report for February 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the receipt and file of this fee collection report.

Attachment: Western Riverside County MSHCP LDMF Collection and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution Report for February 2021

<i>Approved by the Executive Committee on March 17, 2021</i>					
In Favor:	7	Abstain:	0	No:	0

**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP LDMF COLLECTION AND CIVIC/INFRASTRUCTURE
CONTRIBUTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FEE COLLECTIONS							
City/County	Month	REMITTED				EXEMPTIONS & FEE CREDITS	
		Residential Permits	Commercial Industrial Acres	Amount Remitted	Total FY Year-to-Date	Residential Permits	Amount
City of Banning	November January-No Activity	2		\$4,468	\$8,936		
City of Beaumont	January-No Activity			\$0	\$355,445		
City of Calimesa	January-Pending			\$0	\$404,354		
City of Canyon Lake	January	1		\$2,234	\$13,404		
City of Corona	December January-Rcvd March	10		\$22,340	\$134,569		
City of Eastvale	January		30.07	\$228,712	\$328,683		
City of Hemet	January	8		\$18,070	\$190,203		
City of Jurupa Valley	January	57	6.90	\$179,819	\$1,085,302		
City of Lake Elsinore	January			\$66	\$167,420		
City of Menifee	January	118		\$252,356	\$1,479,993		
City of Moreno Valley	January	44	8.67	\$164,270	\$664,392		
City of Murrieta	December-No Activity January-No Activity			\$0 \$0	\$69,370		
City of Norco	January-No Activity			\$0	\$0		
City of Perris	December January	29 22	56.09 1.66	\$491,407 \$61,510	\$1,058,446		
City of Riverside	Oct/Nov/Dec-Rcvd March January-No Activity			\$0 \$0	\$134,506		
City of San Jacinto	January	36		\$80,426	\$321,359		
City of Temecula	December January-Pending Roripaugh DA ¹	4		\$6,056 \$0	\$455,456	36	\$80,424
City of Wildomar	December January-No Activity	8		\$17,872	\$89,360		
County of Riverside	February	156	2.13	\$364,705	\$3,589,279		
	Total LDMF Collections	495	105.52	\$1,894,312	\$10,550,477	36	\$ 80,424

CIVIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS		
Hamner Ave Bridge Project - RivCo Transportation Dept		\$280,967
Total Civic/Infrastructure Contributions		\$280,967

TOTAL FEBRUARY 2021 \$2,175,279

¹ Roripaugh Development Agreement dated 12/17/02. Project is exempt under Assessment District 161.

AGENDA ITEM 7C

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE:	April 5, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Adopt Resolution Nos. 2021-009 and 2021-010 Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to adopt Resolution Nos. 2021-009 and 2021-010 Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RCA is the recipient of several Section 6 Grants. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) desires to assist the RCA by providing federal and state grant funding to help complete the acquisition. As part of the process, a board resolution is required prior to the WCB disbursing the funds.

The resolutions apply to three separate properties:

1. Resolution No. 2021-009 is for APNs 932-180-014, 015, & 932-200-024 near Murrieta
2. Resolution No. 2021-010 is for APN 932-170-016 near Murrieta

The first property will be covered during the closed session agenda of today’s meeting. The last property was approved at the RCA Board meeting on February 1, 2021. Details of the price and terms will be or were provided during the closed session agendas. Staff recommends approval of the attached resolutions to accept the grant funding from WCB, upon the approval of the proposed purchase in closed session.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Financial Information					
In Fiscal Year Budget:	Yes	Year:	FY 2020/21	Amount:	\$980,000
Source of Funds:	State and federal grant funds			Budget Adjustment:	No
GL/Project Accounting No.:	51636 935220 751680 51636 935220 766600				
Fiscal Procedures Approved:	<i>Theresa Trevino</i>			Date:	April 1, 2020

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution No. 2021-009
- 2) Resolution No. 2021-010

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

April 5, 2021 – Agenda Item No.7C

Resolution No. 2021-009

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF ALL OR A PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER’S 932-180-014, 932-180-015 AND 932-200-024 TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 56.92 ACRES IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby:

1. FINDS that acquisition of the identified property is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. FINDS that the identified property possesses high ecological and habitat value;
3. FINDS that the use of referenced grant funds for acquisition of the identified property is an appropriate expenditure;
4. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation for this item;
5. AUTHORIZES the execution of California Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement for Acquisition of Fee Interest number WC-2055SS and the acceptance of grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of acquisition of the identified property;
6. AUTHORIZES the execution of California Wildlife Conservation Board Subgrant Agreement for Acquisition of Fee Interest number SG-2008SS and the acceptance of grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of acquisition of the identified property;
7. AUTHORIZES the acceptance of fee title to the identified property; and
8. AUTHORIZES Anne Mayer, Executive Director, to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Board of Directors.

Natasha Johnson, Chair

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 5th day of April, 2021.

Date: _____

Anne Mayer, Executive Director

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

April 5, 2021 – Agenda Item No. 7C

Resolution No. 2021-010

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF ALL OR A PORTION OF ASSESSOR’S PARCEL NUMBER 932-170-016 TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 19.90 ACRES IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby:

1. FINDS that acquisition of the identified property is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. FINDS that the identified property possesses high ecological and habitat value;
3. FINDS that the use of referenced grant funds for acquisition of the identified property is an appropriate expenditure;
4. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation for this item;
5. AUTHORIZES the execution of California Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement for Acquisition of Fee Interest number WC-2055SS and the acceptance of grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of acquisition of the identified property;
6. AUTHORIZES the execution of California Wildlife Conservation Board Subgrant Agreement for Acquisition of Fee Interest number SG-2008SS and the acceptance of grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of acquisition of the identified property;
7. AUTHORIZES the acceptance of fee title to the identified property; and
8. AUTHORIZES Anne Mayer, Executive Director, to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Board of Directors.

Natasha Johnson, Chair

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 5th day of April, 2021.

Date: _____

Anne Mayer, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 7D

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	April 5, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee David Knudsen, Interim External Affairs Director
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Legislative Update

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Receive and file an update on state and federal legislation; and
- 2) Adopt the following bill positions:
 - a) HR 972 (Calvert) – Support.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State Update

Governor Newsom’s Golden State Stimulus

Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$7.6 billion coronavirus relief package on February 23, 2021, that will give at least \$600 one-time payments to 5.7 million people while setting aside more than \$2 billion in grants for small businesses. This COVID-19 relief package is based on the Governor's initiatives outlined in his January state budget proposal to the Legislature, including relief to lower-income Californians and increased aid to small businesses. The Legislature is expected to continue passing COVID-19 relief legislation throughout the spring, particularly aimed at assisting struggling businesses.

Proposed Wildfire Prevention and Climate Resiliency Bond

Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia have each introduced their own legislation, SB 45 and AB 1500 respectively, to place a wildfire prevention and climate resiliency bond on the ballot in November 2022. SB 45 calls for \$600 million to be allocated to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), whereas AB 1500 calls for \$400 million to be allocated to the WCB. Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) would be one of several programs that would qualify for this competitive funding to be administered by the WCB. Legislative Affairs staff are coordinating with other members of the California Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition (CHCPC) to advocate for \$100 million to be carved out in the proposed bonds specifically for HCPs.

This would better position RCA to compete for funding, should the bond be adopted by the voters in the future. Legislative Affairs staff are coordinating with CHCPC to schedule meetings with the region's legislative delegation to discuss the proposal.

Federal Update

Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge

On February 12, 2021, Representative Ken Calvert introduced H.R. 972, a bill to establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge. With Representative Mark Takano as an original cosponsor of the bill, this bipartisan legislation creates the federal government's framework to meet its obligations under the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Implementing agreement.

This legislation would:

- Establish the boundary for a new wildlife refuge;
- Allow for the immediate inclusion of non-federal conservation lands that have already been acquired to meet the terms of the MSHCP;
- Provide certainty for development of the transportation infrastructure required to meet the future needs of southern California;
- Create new public access and enhance recreation for the entire region; and
- Create a mechanism for federal agencies to inventory lands within the Refuge established by this legislation to determine their suitability for inclusion.

The federal government was a principal partner in establishing the MSHCP and agreed to acquire one-sixth of the Plan's wildlife reserve acres. A wildlife refuge in western Riverside County will enhance RCA's partnership with the federal government to meet the land acquisition goals and fulfill the shared vision of aligning environmental conservation, infrastructure, and economic growth. By establishing this Refuge, H.R. 972 will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fulfill its obligation as a partner in the MSHCP.

Supporting this legislation is in alignment with the adopted 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform, including:

Alignment of Responsibilities

- Support efforts by the state and federal governments to meet their land conservation requirements, as initially intended by the MSHCP (one-third of the Additional Reserve Lands, respectively).
- Support establishment of the Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge.

Staff is recommending the RCA adopt a support position on H.R. 972.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program

On February 22, 2021, Executive Director Anne Mayer sent a letter to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary-designate Representative Deb Haaland to introduce the Western Riverside Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), detail the goals of the MSHCP, and provide recommendations on the administration of the Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants.

Several years ago, the DOI imposed new requirements to apply for Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants, including calling for mandatory “willing seller” letters from property owners and reducing the number of properties that may be acquired with allocated funds. Unfortunately, these restrictions have constrained the RCA’s ability to spend Section 6 grant awards in a timely manner and could result in the return of unspent award funds, defeating the objectives of the program and missions of the Department and the RCA.

To help achieve the goals of the MSHCP, the Department, and the intent behind the Section 6 program, staff proposed the following:

- Eliminate premature willing seller letter requirements;
- Expand parcel list to give more flexibility; and
- Timely announcement of grant awards.

These recommendations and commonsense reforms would reverse the unnecessary delays for the acquisition of threatened habitat and would restore a semblance of marketplace dynamics to the purchase price negotiation process. DOI staff have acknowledged receipt of the letter and look forward to meeting with RCA. Staff will follow up with the DOI and will report to the Board with any updates, as necessary.

COVID-19 Relief

Congress continues to move forward with President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, the American Rescue Plan (Plan). As previously reported, this package's priorities include aid to state and local governments, direct payments to individuals, expanded unemployment benefits, funding for vaccine distribution, rental relief, and small business assistance. The Plan also calls for a federal COVID-19 worker protection standard, funding to enforce this new standard, and hazard pay for essential workers, including retroactive hazard pay for work done since the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The House passed its version of the bill on February 27, 2021, and the Senate is expected to act thereafter.

Attachment: Letter - U.S. Department of the Interior Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants

Approved by the Executive Committee on March 17, 2021

In Favor: 7 Abstain: 0 No: 0



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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary-designate
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary-designate Haaland:

Congratulations on your nomination as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). I look forward to a partnership with you that will lead to the successful completion of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP or Plan), a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that mandates conservation of at-risk species and their associated habitats in southern California.

Established in 2004 with the partnership of the DOI, the Plan encompasses approximately 1.26 million acres (1,966 square miles) and calls for establishing a reserve system consisting of 500,000 acres of protected habitat. It is implemented by a local joint powers authority called the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and 25 other Permittees, including the California Department of Transportation, County of Riverside, 18 cities within the region, and the Riverside County Transportation Commission, which recently became the managing agency for the RCA.

The MSHCP is a 75-year plan to protect 146 species (33 of which are listed as endangered or threatened) while expediting infrastructure projects, particularly transportation facilities, as well as commercial and residential development to support population and economic growth in western Riverside County – the tenth largest county in the nation and growing. To date, the reserve includes more than 400,000 acres. The federal government has been a critical partner in implementing the MSHCP. The MSHCP’s chartering MOU specifies that the federal and state governments are each responsible for acquiring one-sixth of the land, and the RCA is to acquire the remaining two-thirds. A significant part of our success has been funding from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program. These grants specifically support HCP land acquisition, and the RCA is grateful to have received Section 6 support to help fulfill the requirements of the MSHCP.

Several years ago, new requirements were imposed to apply for Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants, including calling for mandatory “willing seller” letters from property owners and reducing the number of properties which may be acquired with allocated funds. Unfortunately, these restrictions have constrained the RCA’s ability to timely spend Section 6 grant awards and could result in the return of unspent award funds, defeating the objectives of the program and missions of the Department and the RCA. We know we are not the only HCP that shares this experience.

The Honorable Deb Haaland

February 22, 2021

Page 2

To help achieve the goals of the MSHCP, the Department, and the intent behind the Section 6 program, we propose the following:

- **Eliminate premature willing seller letter requirements.** Property owners are understandably wary of making this commitment given uncertainties of price and funding during early stages of negotiation. Willing seller letters can be provided in the post-award process once more certainty can be provided to a seller concerning funding amount, timing, and additional terms of a given transaction. Moreover, it is already Agency policy to acquire real property only from willing sellers.
- **Expand parcel list to give more flexibility.** A limited parcel list makes it nearly impossible to use all of the Non-Traditional Section 6 funds provided within the limited time period of grant availability. We propose that all parcels within the designated boundaries of an HCP that meet the conservation objectives of the Plan should be considered eligible for purchase during any given grant cycle. This provides sellers with price agreement certainty.
- **Timely announcement of grant awards.** The acquisition process is severely constrained by the Department's recent delay in announcing grant awards, even after funds have been appropriated. A lag of two years or longer in the availability of funds makes it practically impossible to plan for prospective acquisition projects, and to negotiate with sellers for closing within a time certain.

These recommendations and commonsense reforms reverse the unnecessary encumbrance of the timely acquisition of threatened habitat and would restore a semblance of marketplace dynamics to the purchase-price negotiation process.

The RCA is grateful for the ongoing support afforded us by the Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Together we have accomplished a great deal over the past 16 years. We hope to return to a proven and successful habitat acquisition process by implementing these proposed changes to the ESA Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant requirements.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you, your staff, and Mr. Gary Frazer, the Assistant Director for Endangered Species at USFWS to discuss these issues. Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please call me at (951) 787-7141. I look forward to partnering with you and your staff as a representative of RCA and as a member of state and national HCP coalitions.

Sincerely,



Anne Mayer
Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 8

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE:	April 5, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Update on State and Federal Grants for Reserve Acquisition

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file an update on state and federal grants for reserve acquisition.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RCA actively applies for state and federal funds to acquire Additional Reserve Lands (ARL) as part of its responsibilities under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). These grants come with specific requirements, approval processes, and timelines. Success requires coordination with state and federal agencies, property owners, appraisers, and all functions within RCA.

RCA is currently focused on expending three grants:

Grant	Amount	Awarding Agency	Expiration
FY 2017 Endangered Species Act Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program	\$2 million*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5/30/2021 +6 month extension
FY 2019 Endangered Species Act Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program	\$10 million*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	5/30/2021
Jurupa Mountains Conservation	\$14.7 million	California Natural Resources Agency	3/1/2022

*Federal portion (the State provides a 25% match)

Each of the three grants is a simultaneous opportunity and challenge. RCA staff has prioritized successful completion of each grant before the expiration date. Such organizational priority is warranted because performance on current grants will impact RCA’s competitiveness for future funding and credibility with stakeholders in Washington, Sacramento, and locally. With a substantial amount of ARL remaining to be assembled, RCA must be diligent in getting every dollar possible into reserve acquisition.

Respecting that some details of these grants involve real property negotiations that are the subject of previous and future Closed Session items for the RCA Board, the general status of the three grants is as follows:

Federal Section 6 Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is processing a short-term extension of the FY 2017 grant and the RCA is working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to secure properties for the grant ahead of the extended deadline. Nearly all the FY 2017 funds will be exhausted. The FY 2019 Section 6 grant will return a balance of \$4.2 million of the federal portion of the grant after the State of California's Department of General Services (DGS) rejected the RCA's appraisal for a 77.29-acre parcel near Hemet and no time remaining to develop an alternate strategy before the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) last meeting prior to expiration of the grant. The RCA disagrees with the grounds for DGS's rejection. Staff and consultants deployed multiple efforts in response including communicating with legislators' offices, the Governor's office, and WCB and USFWS staff. Unfortunately, the new appraisal to satisfy DGS resulted in a valuation that was untenable to the property owner.

The balance of the FY 2019 grant funds will return to USFWS for the FY 2022 Section 6 grant solicitation for which the RCA is already preparing to apply. In the meantime, the RCA has requested the California Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition convene a workshop with DGS to better understand and provide feedback to their procedures and policies. The RCA will also meet with WCB and USFWS, as well as follow up with the legislators and the Governor's staff who were engaged this month.

Jurupa Mountains Conservation

The Jurupa Mountains Conservation grant faces several challenges to expending all the funds by the March 1, 2022 deadline, all of which are outside of RCA's control. On the current course, it is highly unlikely that all \$14.7 million will be expended by March 1, 2022. Staff is pursuing every option available to acquire as many acres as possible within the structure of the grant. Additionally, staff is in active discussion with State Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes, who secured the funds in the FY 2019/20 State Budget, about options to preserve the grant funding for habitat acquisition for the MSHCP if all funds cannot be used to conserve the Jurupa Mountains. Staff will keep the Board apprised of the status of this grant.

One of the priorities of the RCA Board of Directors in approving the management consolidation with RCTC was RCTC's experience with pursuing and managing state and federal grants as well as property acquisition. RCTC is building upon the work of the prior administration of RCA in developing strategies to retain and secure as much funding as possible to fulfill the objectives of the MSHCP. This report is intended to provide an update on our progress in this arena.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of these grant funds have already been accounted for in the adopted RCA FY 2021 Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 9

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	April 5, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Philip Kang, Technical Information Program Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	New Online Conservation Dashboard Demonstration

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the New Online Conservation Dashboard Demonstration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the request of Chair Johnson to increase transparency and communication with the public, RCA Member Agencies, and stakeholders, as an extension of the MSHCP Annual Report, RCA has created two new online Geographic Information System (GIS) dashboards to convey the MSHCP Annual Report. These dashboards will be updated annually with data from MSHC Permittees. Links to these annual report dashboards can be found under the Maps menu of the RCA website (<https://www.wrc-rca.org/>).

The first dashboard shows acreage conserved by jurisdictions, as well as conservation goals and Measure A funds received for each. The second dashboard shows whether a Rough Step Unit is in or out of balance and the vegetation statistics by acreage.

Staff will demonstrate the new dashboards during the Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The New Online Conservation Dashboard Demonstration does not cause a fiscal impact.

AGENDA ITEM 11

PRESENTATION