



MEETING AGENDA

TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. / Monday, May 3, 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, May 3, 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/85079314586>

Call in: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 850 7931 4586

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,85079314586#

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 May 2, 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 | 932-270-005 & 932-270-006 | The Nature Conservancy (Schumacher) | RCA |
| 2 | 932-160-026 | The Nature Conservancy (LaFleur) | RCA |
| 3 | 932-170-019 | The Nature Conservancy (KS California) | RCA |

6B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
 Case No. RIC1901547

6C. 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 – APRIL 5, 2021

Page 1

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

Page 6

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 March 2021.

7C. ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 2021-008, 2021-011, AND 2021-012 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Page 8

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-008, *“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 932-160-026 Totaling Approximately 20.37 Acres in the County of Riverside”*;
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-011, *“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 Numbers 932-270-005 and 932-270-006 Totaling Approximately 51.76 Acres in the County of Riverside”*; and
- 3) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-012, *“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 932-170-019 Totaling Approximately 20.18 Acres in the County of Riverside”*.

7D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Page 13

Overview

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

8. AUTHORIZATION TO ACQUIRE TAX-DEFAULTED PROPERTIES FROM THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-013 OBJECTING TO THE PUBLIC SALE

Page 27

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Authorize the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector for open space for wildlife and plant life conservation in an amount not to exceed \$56,462; and
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-013, *“Resolution of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Objecting to the Public Sale and Approving the Purchase of Tax-Defaulted Property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector.”*

9. DRAFT PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Page 40

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive a presentation summarizing the Draft Public Outreach Plan.

10. ROUGH STEP COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATION

Page 47

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file this informational item on Rough Step Compliance Communication.

11. PRESENTATION - GETTING TO KNOW THE MSHCP

12. 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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, June 7, 2021**, via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEM 7A

MINUTES

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 5, 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 12:30 p.m., via Zoom Meeting ID 823 8889 2144, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors/Alternates Present

Kevin Jeffries
Karen Spiegel
Colleen Wallace
Julio Martinez
Jeff Cervantez*
Larry Greene
Tony Daddario
Linda Krupa
Lorena Barajas
Natasha Johnson

Lesa Sobek
David Marquez
Jonathan Ingram
Kevin Bash
David Starr Rabb
Erin Edwards
Crystal Ruiz
Maryann Edwards
Ben J. Benoit

Board of Directors Absent

Chuck Washington
V. Manuel Perez
Jeff Hewitt
Jocelyn Yow

*Arrived after the meeting was called to order.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Benoit.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Patrick Ellis, president of the Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, expressed his desire to work with the RCA to find a solution for the cities in the southwest area of Riverside County regarding the permit fee structure for the MSHCP. Mr. Ellis would like the Board to consider creating a plan to help with smaller industrial and commercial properties or postponing the adoption of the fee increase until the end of the year. A proposal has been sent to the RCA staff.

5. ADDITIONS / REVISIONS

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

6. 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.

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

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

Item 1: acquisition of the property was approved for \$140,000

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).

At this time, Board Member Cervantez joined the meeting.

M/S/C (Ruiz/Sobek) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2021

7B. 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 February 2021.

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

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

This item 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

Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director, provided a presentation on the current status of three state and federal grants that have been awarded to the RCA. Mr. Hake detailed the process for the RCA team when competing for and completing grants for both the state and federal level.

The RCA received a Fiscal Year 2017 Section 6 Program grant for \$2 million, matched with state funds. The grant is set to expire in May of this year, but the RCA staff is working on a 6-month extension. Efforts to spend these funds are being coordinated with the Nature Conservancy, as they are sometimes able to acquire property in a more streamlined fashion. With the 6-month extension, the RCA will be able to expend all the 2017 grant funds.

For Fiscal Year 2019, the RCA received two years' worth of grant funding under the Section 6 Program, in the amount of \$10 million, matched by some state funding. This grant was unusual as the funds were only valid for one-year, a condition of receiving the funds were that they be spent within the year. Some of these grant funds have been used but, unfortunately, the Department of General Services (DGS) rejected the appraisal that was presented to expend the remaining grant funds. With that rejection, the RCA will be returning \$4.2 million in federal funds.

The Jurupa Mountains Conservation grant was awarded to the RCA a few years ago with the help of Assembly Member Cervantes, for \$14.7 million. The RCA currently has a couple properties that are being processed, with a few more in discussion. It has become clear to the RCA staff that it won't be possible to expend all the funds in the Jurupa Mountain area, there simply aren't enough willing sellers at appraised value. In an effort to expend all the awarded funds, the RCA staff has started conversations with Assembly Member Cervantes about potential options, expanding the area of eligibility for this grant, and a possible extension.

Mr. Hake added that looking ahead, the RCA staff has requested a workshop with the DGS to better understand how they operate, are starting to prepare for the Fiscal Year 2022 Section 6 funding opportunities, advocating for improvement to the Section 6 program, and pushing for increased funding from Congress.

Board Member M. Edwards noted that it is never good to return grant funds, returning funds as a long-time grantee, it can be difficult to get funding in the next cycle. It was suggested that in the future, properties should be targeted, so that when grant funding is available, it can be used. Any grant requests should be balanced with the number of properties the RCA believes they would be able to acquire. Mr. Hake agreed, stating that the RCA staff has already started identifying which properties could be included in the next proposal and calibrating the request amount versus what can be expended.

Board Member Ingram stated that there are forces beyond the control of the RCA. The constraints placed on staff by the DGS and the process of spending those grant funds can call everything into question. Board Member Ingram thanked the RCA staff for their efforts and continuing to do the most possible with the available funds.

Board Member Sobek inquired as to how the state can decline an appraisal, and if there were guidelines that weren't met. Mr. Hake noted that the Section 6 Grants are given to the State of California from the federal government, the RCA is considered a sub-recipient. As such, for the state to release the funds to the RCA, they must approve the process and how the RCA has come to an agreement. The method to reviewing and approving the agreement and appraisal, is through the DGS, and their policies are something the RCA needs to learn more about.

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, added that this is an area where the RCA staff is going to dive deeper into understanding. The RCA, along with other HPCs, have asked the DGS for a workshop to have an opportunity to ask detailed questions and acquire knowledge to determine if the criteria are personal preferences, professional appraisal management, or written in their manual. This will also help the RCA determine if there are administrative restrictions in place that make it harder than it should be to fairly acquire property, and what can be done to remedy the issues.

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

Philip Kang, Technical Information Program Manager, provided a demonstration of the two new MSHCP Annual Report dashboards on the RCA website. The dashboards include details for Conservation by Jurisdiction and Rough Step Balance. The data on both dashboards are pulled from the MSHCP Annual Report and are updated annually.

Chair Johnson noted that cities and jurisdictions have asked for quite some time to be able to quickly access how much land has been conserved and how much more needs to be conserved. Chair Johnson is excited in the level of transparency this brings to the organization and encouraged Board Members to go to the website to explore them.

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

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, provided a Nexus Study update and noted that several jurisdictions have made great progress towards implementation, with nearly three quarters of the cities already starting the adoption process. The RCA staff is moving ahead and assisting jurisdiction staff in any way possible with the deadline of final adoption by July 1st. There have been technical meetings with the RCA staff and jurisdictions, as well as review of the

implementation manual, and presenting information to the Western Riverside Council of Governments. Ms. Mayer acknowledged the accommodations that jurisdiction staff have made to allow the RCA staff to attend or participate in City Council Meetings and support from Board Members during this process. The RCA staff is scheduled to meet with Mr. Ellis next week to discuss his issues and concerns as voiced at the beginning of this meeting. Ms. Mayer pointed out that any changes to the fee structure already adopted by the Board including a change that would affect the categories or the associated fees would likely need to be completed through a Nexus Study update or revision.

The managing agency transition between the RCA and RCTC is going very well. Ms. Mayer recognized staff who have worked to make this transition as smooth as possible and the recommendations and suggestions received not only from the Board, but also from stakeholders, city and county staff. The primary focuses for the next few months will be sustainability of the MSHCP, making sure the Nexus Study is adopted, managing of existing grants, organizational excellence, and partnerships at the local, state and federal level.

Chair Johnson thanked the RCA staff for their support in the adoption of the Nexus Study and making it a priority.

11. PRESENTATION - SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Betsy Dionne, Senior Management Analyst Management and Monitoring, provided a presentation on the species of the month, the Granite Night Lizard.

Board Member Ingram thanked Ms. Dionne for the presentation of a great looking lizard.

12. 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 1:22 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, May 3, 2021**, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Mobley
Administrative Services Manager/
Clerk of the Board

AGENDA ITEM 7B

| | |
|---|---|
| WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | |
| DATE: | May 3, 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 March 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. Other fees are contributed by Member Agencies and other jurisdictions for civic and infrastructure projects. For FY 2020/21, RCA budgeted \$490,000 for such contributions.

Attached is the LDMF Collection and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution report for March 2021, which reflects combined collections to date of \$13,797,736.

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 March 2021

| | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|---|-----|---|
| <i>Approved by the Executive Committee on April 22, 2021</i> | | | | | |
| In Favor: | 6 | Abstain: | 0 | No: | 0 |

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

Amounts subject to rounding

| 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 | February-No Activity | | | \$0 | \$8,936 | | |
| City of Beaumont | February-No Activity | | | \$0 | \$355,445 | | |
| City of Calimesa | January February-No Activity | 25 | | \$55,850 | \$460,204 | | |
| City of Canyon Lake | February | 1 | | \$2,234 | \$15,638 | | |
| City of Corona | January February | 15 6 | | \$22,254 \$8,580 | \$165,403 | | |
| City of Eastvale | February | | 55.86 | \$424,871 | \$753,554 | | |
| City of Hemet | February | 12 | | \$26,808 | \$217,011 | | |
| City of Jurupa Valley | February | 1 | 23.67 | \$182,268 | \$1,267,570 | | |
| City of Lake Elsinore | February | 25 | | \$37,226 | \$204,646 | | |
| City of Menifee | February | 200 | | \$446,800 | \$1,926,793 | | |
| City of Moreno Valley | February | 47 | 0.6 | \$109,691 | \$774,082 | | |
| City of Murrieta | February-Pending | | | \$0 | \$69,370 | | |
| City of Norco | February | 1 | | \$2,234 | \$2,234 | | |
| City of Perris | February-Rcvd April | | | \$0 | \$1,058,446 | | |
| City of Riverside | Oct/Nov/Dec February-Pending | 5 | 2.4 | \$29,047 \$0 | \$163,553 | | |
| City of San Jacinto | February | 31 | | \$69,254 | \$390,613 | | |
| City of Temecula | January February-Pending Roripaugh DA ¹ | 21 | | \$30,834 | \$486,290 | 20 | \$44,680 |
| City of Wildomar | January February | 1 1 | | \$2,234 \$2,234 | \$93,828 | | |
| County of Riverside | March | 167 | 144.02 | \$1,468,510 | \$5,057,789 | | |
| Total LDMF Collections | | 559 | 226.60 | \$2,920,928 | \$13,471,405 | 20 | \$ 44,680 |

| CIVIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | | Amount Remitted | Total FY Year-to-Date |
| City of Menifee Community Service Facility expansion | | \$532 | |
| Total Civic and Infrastructure contributions from all Member Agencies | | | \$326,331 |
| Total Civic/Infrastructure Contributions | | \$532 | \$326,331 |

TOTAL MARCH 2021 \$2,921,461 \$13,797,736

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: | May 3, 2021 |
| TO: | Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority |
| FROM: | Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager |
| THROUGH: | Anne Mayer, Executive Director |
| SUBJECT: | Adopt Resolution Nos. 2021-008, 2021-011, and 2021-012 Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property |

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-008, *“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 932-160-026 Totaling Approximately 20.37 Acres in the County of Riverside”*;
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-011, *“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 Numbers 932-270-005 and 932-270-006 Totaling Approximately 51.76 Acres in the County of Riverside”*; and
- 3) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-012, *“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 932-170-019 Totaling Approximately 20.18 Acres in the County of Riverside”*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The RCA is the recipient of several federal Section 6 Grants for habitat acquisition. The State of California is the applicant for the funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and passes them through to the RCA. The California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) provides the state matching funds required for the Section 6 program. In order for WCB to approve sending the state and federal funds to the RCA, a board resolution is required by WCB.

The resolutions apply to four assessor parcel number (APN) properties:

1. Resolution No. 2021-008 is for APN 932-160-026 near Murrieta
2. Resolution No. 2021-011 is for APNs 932-270-005 and 932-270-006 near Murrieta
3. Resolution No. 2021-012 is for APN 932-170-019 near Murrieta

The properties will be covered during the closed session agenda of today’s meeting. Details of the price and terms will be 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 purchases in closed session.

FISCAL IMPACT:

| Financial Information | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| In Fiscal Year Budget: | Yes | Year: | FY 2021/22 | Amount: | \$800,000 |
| 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 21, 2021 |

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution No. 2021-008
- 2) Resolution No. 2021-011
- 3) Resolution No. 2021-012

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

May 3, 2021 – Agenda Item No. 7C

Resolution No. 2021-008

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 932-160-026 TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 20.37 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 3rd day of May 2021.

Date: _____

Anne Mayer, Executive Director

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

May 3, 2021 – Agenda Item No. 7C

Resolution No. 2021-011

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 932-270-005 AND 932-270-006 TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 51.76 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 3rd day of May 2021.

Date: _____

Anne Mayer, Executive Director

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

May 3, 2021 – Agenda Item No. 7C

Resolution No. 2021-012

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 932-170-019 TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 20.18 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 3rd day of May 2021.

Date: _____

Anne Mayer, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM 7D

| | |
|---|---|
| WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | |
| DATE: | May 3, 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 receive and file an update on state and federal legislation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State Update

The California State Legislature returned to Sacramento from its week-long spring recess on April 5, 2021. Legislators have an extremely busy month ahead as they work through policy committee hearings and facing deadlines to advance bills introduced in their house of origin. Simultaneously, Governor Newsom is preparing his budget revision to be released in May, which will take into account any adjustments to state revenue or any changes he wants to make to his 2021-22 budget proposal. June 15, 2021, is the Constitutional deadline for the Legislature to pass a budget.

In partnership with the California Habitat Conservation Plan Coalition (CHCPC), staff is working to setup a workshop with the California Department of General Services (DGS) in order to better understand their policies, practices, and procedures related to land acquisition appraisals associated with grant awards. RCA and other Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) are advocating for improvements within the DGS appraisal review process.

Legislation

SB 45 (Portantino) – Support, if amended (support letter based on platform)

Senate Bill (SB) 45, authored by Senator Anthony Portantino, is a \$5.5 billion bond measure titled, the Wildfire, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act. The measure proposes funds to reduce fire risk and restore areas that are already damaged; restore and protect impacted wetlands, watersheds, and waterways; reduce impacts on vulnerable populations; and improve the resiliency of the State’s water supplies and agricultural

lands. The bond measure calls for \$600 million to be allocated to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). HCPs would be one of several programs that would qualify for this competitive funding to be administered by the WCB. However, this funding is not guaranteed to be awarded to HCPs.

SB 45 represents an opportunity for HCPs to gain access to much-needed funding. However, staff is recommending an amendment to the legislation to add funding specifically for HCPs. This would better position the RCA to compete for funding, should the bond be adopted by the voters in the future. In support of this effort, the CHCPC is advocating for \$100 million to be set aside for HCPs.

Based on the Senate Governance and Finance Committee's deadlines, staff submitted a "support, if amended" letter on behalf of the RCA, to ensure our input was part of the legislative process.

Action taken on this bill was consistent with the Board adopted 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform, including:

- Policies should recognize the positive and enabling benefits that HCPs and National Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) bring to the environment, infrastructure development, economic growth, and quality of life to the surrounding communities.
- Support efforts to preserve, stabilize, leverage, and increase state and federal funding for implementation of the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

AB 1500 (Garcia) –Support, if amended (support letter based on platform)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1500, authored by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, is the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022. AB 1500 calls for \$6.7 billion to be used to achieve the State's climate action goals, mitigate climate impacts, improve disaster response, and prevent future catastrophes. The bond would make investments in various adaptation activities throughout the State, ranging from wildfire risk reduction, to drought preparation, to protection against sea-level rise. AB 1500 includes \$400 million in funding to the WCB. HCPs and NCCPs are one of several eligible uses of the funds. HCPs would have to compete for this funding with other agencies without any guarantee of funding award.

Like SB 45, AB 1500 represents an opportunity for HCPs to gain access to much-needed funding. However, staff is recommending the legislation be amended to add funding specifically for HCPs. This would better position the RCA to compete for funding, should the bond be adopted by the voters in the future. In support of this effort, the CHCPC is advocating for \$100 million to be set aside for HCPs.

Based on the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee's deadlines, staff submitted a "support, if amended" letter on behalf of the RCA, to ensure our input was part of the legislative process.

Action taken on this bill was consistent with the Board adopted 2021 State and Federal Legislative Platform, including:

- Policies should recognize the positive and enabling benefits that HCPs and NCCPs bring to the environment, infrastructure development, economic growth, and quality of life to the surrounding communities.
- Support efforts to preserve, stabilize, leverage, and increase state and federal funding for implementation of the MSHCP.

Federal Update

On March 31, 2021, President Joe Biden unveiled his American Jobs Plan, a \$2.3 trillion proposal including \$1.3 trillion for infrastructure spending. Congress will consider this plan as surface transportation reauthorization legislation as crafted in the House and Senate.

Section 6 Notice of Funding Opportunity

As a follow-up to the virtual D.C. advocacy trip in March and RCA's February 22, 2021 letter to Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding recommendations on the administration of the Non-Traditional Section 6 Grants, staff and other California Habitat Conservation Plans met with United States Fish and Wildlife Services staff regarding the next Section 6 Notice of Funding Opportunity. Meetings like this help further RCA's efforts to provide greater flexibility to the grant program.

Community Project Funding

Congressional offices across the country, including those in Riverside County, are accepting applications for community projects to receive federal dollars under new Community Project Funding (CPF), which allows members of Congress to request funding for as many as ten projects within their home districts. The ten projects selected by Members will go to the House Appropriations Committee for review, and there will be a public database of all requests received by the committee.

In order to achieve decision-making transparency and reduce potential abuse, several guardrails have been set, including: requiring Members to certify that they and their families do not have a financial interest in any request made by the Member; creating a searchable online database of all CPF requests; banning for-profit recipients; and requiring each Member to demonstrate community benefit and support for each request. Each congressional office required each applicant to answer a series of questions to vet the legitimacy of the project and the request.

Staff have been working diligently to prepare community project funding requests that will assist with the implementation of the MSHCP. In particular, the RCA applied for CPF to Representatives Calvert, Takano, and Ruiz seeking land acquisition funds. Each application requested \$3 million to leverage local funds to acquire prioritized lands.

While this is the process for the House, the Senate is expected to craft its own process for including CPF in its appropriations process, but neither a timeline nor a formal agreement between the chamber's leaders have been announced. In the meantime, staff will continue to identify additional funding resources to help achieve the goals of the MSHCP.

Attachment:

- 1) AB 1500 Support Letter to Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
- 2) SB 45 Support letter to Senator Anthony Portantino
- 3) RCA Community Project Funding Support letter – Eden Hot Springs Project, Badlands
- 4) RCA Community Project Funding Support letter – Sage Project, East of Lake Skinner
- 5) RCA Community Project Funding Support letter – Kelvar and Wolfskill Project, Badlands



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 1500 – Support If Amended

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), thank you for taking the time to meet with our Executive Director Anne Mayer and representatives of the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (CHCPC) on March 8, 2021 regarding our conditional support for AB 1500, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.

We appreciate your steadfast leadership in climate resiliency, as well as your thoughtful engagement regarding how the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP or Plan) and other Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) across the state may contribute to the success of this measure.

AB 1500 includes \$400 million in funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). HCPs and NCCPs are one of several eligible uses of the funds. We are pleased to see this amount, but we believe that HCPs and NCCPs would be best positioned to partner with the state to meet climate resiliency goals if you ensure that at least \$100 million of the funding allocated to WCB per § 80562 is reserved specifically for HCPs and NCCPs. We request the following language to be amended into Assembly Bill 1500:

Remove § 80562 (5) and add § 80562 (b) to read:

~~*80562. (5) Projects for the protection of threatened and endangered species, including projects within natural community conservation plans adopted pursuant to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 2800) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code) or habitat conservation plans. Projects may include land acquisition through either easement or fee title.*~~

80562. (b) Of the funds made available by Section 80562 (a), not less than \$100 million dollars shall be available for the acquisition, including fee title and easement; development; rehabilitation; and restoration of habitat that furthers the implementation of both Natural Community Conservation Plans and Habitat Conservation Plans.

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia

March 30, 2021

Page 2

As you know, the MSHCP is a 75-year plan established in 2004 to protect 500,000 acres of habitat for 146 species (33 of which are listed as endangered or threatened) while expediting infrastructure project delivery, particularly transportation facilities, as well as commercial and residential development to support population and economic growth in western Riverside County.

Executive Order N-82-20 set California's goal to conserve 30 percent of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030 and protect the biodiversity of California's unique plants and animals. The MSHCP and other HCPs and NCCPs across the state are indispensable partners in this endeavor and recognize that with the appropriate resources, HCPs and NCCPs can advance carbon sequestration, promote biodiversity for the wellness of ecosystems and society alike, and support environmental justice principles of developing sustainable and equitable communities that preserve access to natural resources.

The state was a principal partner in establishing the MSHCP and agreed to acquire one-sixth of the acres of the Plan's wildlife preserve. AB 1500, if amended would enhance RCA's partnership with the state to meet the land acquisition goals and fulfill the shared vision of aligning environmental conservation, infrastructure, and economic growth. With the amended language, this bond proposal would enable the California Natural Resources Agency to fulfill its obligation as a partner in the MSHCP.

As was discussed in your meeting with RCA, AB 1500 presents a great opportunity and, if amended, will not only equip HCPs and NCCPs with the resources needed to take immediate action to tackle climate change, but ensure the long-term success of the MSHCP and provide certainty that the collaboration with our state partners will remain strong. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Anne Mayer, Executive Director, at (951) 787-7141. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson

Chair

CC: The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes, Assembly District 60
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Assembly District 42
The Honorable Jose Medina, Assembly District 61
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Assembly District 67
The Honorable Randy Voepel, Assembly District 71
The Honorable Marie Waldron, Assembly District 75



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92501
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
 951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

April #, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
 California State Senate
 State Capitol, Room 5050
 Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 45 – Support If Amended

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) writes in conditional support of SB 45, the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, and offers an amendment for your consideration. The introduction of this legislation is commendable and, if amended, would represent a critical investment from the state to the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP or Plan) and other Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) across the state.

SB 45 includes \$600 million in funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). HCPs and NCCPs are one of several eligible uses of the funds. We are pleased to see this amount, but we believe that HCPs and NCCPs would be best positioned to partner with the state to meet climate resiliency goals if you ensure that at least \$100 million of the funding allocated to WCB per § 80241 is reserved specifically for HCPs and NCCPs. We request the following language to be amended into Senate Bill 45:

Remove § 80241 (g) and add § 80243 to read:

~~*80241. (g) Projects for the protection of threatened and endangered species, including projects within natural community conservation plans or habitat conservation plans. Projects may include land acquisition through either easement or fee title...*~~

80243. Of the funds made available by Section 80241, not less than \$100 million dollars shall be available to the Wildlife Conservation Board for grants for the acquisition, including fee title and easement; development; rehabilitation; and restoration of habitat that furthers the implementation of both Natural Community Conservation Plans and Habitat Conservation Plans.

Established in 2004, the MSHCP is a 75-year plan to protect 500,000 acres of habitat for 146 species (33 of which are listed as endangered or threatened) while expediting infrastructure project delivery, particularly transportation facilities, as well as commercial and residential development to support population and economic growth in western Riverside County.

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
April 8, 2021
Page 2

Executive Order N-82-20 set California's goal to conserve 30 percent of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030 and protect the biodiversity of California's unique plants and animals. The MSHCP and other HCPs and NCCPs across the state are indispensable partners in this endeavor and recognize that with the appropriate resources, HCPs and NCCPs can advance carbon sequestration, promote biodiversity for the wellness of ecosystems and society alike, and support environmental justice principles of developing sustainable and equitable communities that preserve access to natural resources.

The state was a principal partner in establishing the MSHCP and agreed to acquire one-sixth of the acres of the Plan's wildlife preserve. SB 45, if amended, would enhance RCA's partnership with the state to meet the land acquisition goals and fulfill the shared vision of aligning environmental conservation, infrastructure, and economic growth. With the amended language, this bond proposal would enable the California Natural Resources Agency to fulfill its obligation as a partner in the MSHCP.

SB 45 presents a great opportunity and, if amended, will not only equip HCPs and NCCPs with the resources needed to take immediate action to tackle climate change, but ensure the long-term success of the MSHCP and provide certainty that the collaboration with our state partners will remain strong.

Please contact Anne Mayer, Executive Director, at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson
Chair

CC: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Senate District 23
The Honorable Melissa Melendez, Senate District 28
The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Senate District 31



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92501
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
 951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Ken Calvert
 United States House of Representatives
 U.S. Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority's Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Calvert:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), I am pleased to request Community Project Funding of \$3 million for the Eden Hot Springs Acquisition Project to acquire eight parcels in Congressional District 42 and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area for purposes of habitat conservation.

The Eden Hot Springs properties include 821 acres located in the Badlands east of Mystic Lake and north of Gilman Springs Road in unincorporated Riverside County. These lands would contribute to a proposed habitat linkage connecting the San Bernardino National Forest in the San Jacinto Mountains to the southwest with San Bernardino County and other conserved areas to the north, west, and south. This linkage would provide habitat protection and movement for Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, cactus wren, Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles Pocket Mouse, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, and mountain lion, which have key populations in the Badlands.

The MSHCP calls for the acquisition and conservation of 500,000 acres of habitat reserves in western Riverside County for the protection of 146 species, 33 of which are listed as threatened or endangered. 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. Thanks to this partnership, 410,034 acres of land have been conserved since the MSHCP's inception in 2004, accounting for 82 percent of the reserve goal.

This project is instrumental to the success of the Endangered Species Act and it offers broad local benefit to be enjoyed for generations. Not only does habitat conservation bolster biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem, but it also protects open space in underserved communities for potential recreational use, and it preserves and expands natural carbon sequestration to improve local air quality.

However, Riverside County continues to rapidly develop as its population is expected to grow to 3.2 million by 2040. As the real estate market becomes more competitive the value of land left to be acquired and conserved will only rise.

The Honorable Ken Calvert
April 8, 2021
Page 2

To minimize taxpayer burden in our community and maximize benefit for the residents and protected species of western Riverside County, it is critical that RCA maintain momentum to acquire prioritized lands before they further appreciate in value. If funded, this acquisition would constitute a leap in progress toward fully implementing the MSHCP and could one day be included in the proposed Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge.

The project will be funded with \$2.3 million in local funding with the balance from the Community Funding Project.

The Eden Hot Springs Acquisition Project is deserving of this funding because of the long-term positive effect it will have on the wellbeing and prosperity our community's residents, protected species, and land that we call home. RCA values the federal government as an integral partner, and I encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Please contact Executive Director Anne Mayer at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson
Chair



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority's Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), I am pleased to request Community Project Funding of \$3 million for the Sage Acquisition Project to acquire six parcels in Congressional District 36 and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area for purposes of habitat conservation.

The Sage properties include 1,070 acres located 10 miles east of Lake Skinner in unincorporated Riverside County, immediately east of Sage Road. The proposed large intact habitat preserve provides live-in habitat and movement for species connecting to other conserved areas located in the Agua Tibia Wilderness, San Bernardino National Forest, and Beauty Mountain Management Area. This habitat supports Quino checkerspot butterfly, coastal California gnatcatcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat, least Bell's vireo, bobcat, mountain lion, and several rare plant species.

The MSHCP calls for the acquisition and conservation of 500,000 acres of habitat reserves in western Riverside County for the protection of 146 species, 33 of which are listed as threatened or endangered. 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. Thanks to this partnership, 410,034 acres of land have been conserved since the MSHCP's inception in 2004, accounting for 82 percent of the reserve goal.

This project is instrumental to the success of the Endangered Species Act, as well as state and federal conservation and climate action goals. And it offers broad local benefit to be enjoyed for generations. Not only does habitat conservation bolster biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem, but it also protects open space in underserved communities for potential recreational use, and it preserves and expands natural carbon sequestration to improve local air quality and combat climate change.

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
April 8, 2021
Page 2

However, Riverside County continues to rapidly develop as its population is expected to grow to 3.2 million by 2040. As the real estate market becomes more competitive the value of land left to be acquired and conserved will only rise.

To minimize taxpayer burden in our community and maximize benefit for the residents and protected species of western Riverside County, it is critical that RCA maintain momentum to acquire prioritized lands before they further appreciate in value. If funded, this acquisition would constitute a leap in progress toward fully implementing the MSHCP and could one day be included in the proposed Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge.

The project will be funded with \$1.6 million in local funding with the balance from the Community Funding Project.

The Sage Acquisition Project is deserving of this funding because of the long-term positive effect it will have on the wellbeing and prosperity our community's residents, protected species, and land that we call home. RCA values the federal government as an integral partner, and I encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Please contact Executive Director Anne Mayer at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson
Chair



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Mark Takano
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority's Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Takano:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), I am pleased to request Community Project Funding of \$3 million for the Kelvar and Wolfskill Acquisition Project to acquire six parcels in Congressional District 41 and the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) area for purposes of habitat conservation.

The Kelvar and Wolfskill properties include 745 acres located in the Badlands of unincorporated Riverside County, between State Route 60 and the intersection of Gilman Springs Road and Alessandro Boulevard. These lands would contribute to a proposed habitat linkage connecting the San Bernardino National Forest in the San Jacinto Mountains to the southwest with San Bernardino County and other conserved areas to the north, west, and south. This linkage would provide habitat protection and movement for Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, cactus wren, Stephens' kangaroo rat, Los Angeles Pocket Mouse, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, and mountain lion, which have key populations in the Badlands.

The MSHCP calls for the acquisition and conservation of 500,000 acres of habitat reserves in western Riverside County for the protection of 146 species, 33 of which are listed as threatened or endangered. 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. Thanks to this partnership, 410,034 acres of land have been conserved since the MSHCP's inception in 2004, accounting for 82 percent of the reserve goal.

This project is instrumental to the success of the Endangered Species Act, President Biden's 30x30 goal to conserve 30 percent of public lands by 2030, as well as state and federal climate action efforts, such as California's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent of 1990 levels by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Not only does habitat conservation bolster biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem, but it also preserves and expands natural carbon sequestration to combat climate change and improve the quality of life for all.

The Honorable Mark Takano
April 8, 2021
Page 2

However, Riverside County continues to rapidly develop as its population is expected to grow to 3.2 million by 2040. As the real estate market becomes more competitive the value of land left to be acquired and conserved will only rise.

To minimize taxpayer burden in our community and maximize benefit for the residents and protected species of western Riverside County, it is critical that RCA maintain momentum to acquire prioritized lands before they further appreciate in value. If funded, this acquisition would constitute a leap in progress toward fully implementing the MSHCP and could one day be included in the proposed Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge.

The project will be funded with \$1.85 million in local funding with the balance from the Community Funding Project.

The Kelvar and Wolfskill Acquisition Project is deserving of this funding because of the long-term positive effect it will have on the wellbeing and prosperity our community's residents, protected species, and land that we call home. RCA values the federal government as an integral partner, and I encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Please contact Executive Director Anne Mayer at (951) 787-7141 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson
Chair

AGENDA ITEM 8

| WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | |
|---|--|
| DATE: | May 3, 2021 |
| TO: | Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority |
| FROM: | Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager Ruben Duran, Senior Management Analyst |
| THROUGH: | Anne Mayer, Executive Director |
| SUBJECT: | Authorization to Acquire Tax-Defaulted Properties from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector and Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-013 Objecting to the Public Sale |

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to:

- 1) Authorize the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector for open space for wildlife and plant life conservation in an amount not to exceed \$56,462; and
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-013, *“Resolution of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Objecting to the Public Sale and Approving the Purchase of Tax-Defaulted Property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector”*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The County of Riverside Tax Collector’s Office (County) issued a list of tax-defaulted properties subject to public sale by auction. The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) has identified five of these properties that are situated within various criteria cell areas for its Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP establishes a 500,000-acre habitat reserve to protect, restore, and enhance habitats for the conservation of 146 species while expediting construction of needed infrastructure, particularly transportation, and providing certainty in the development process.

The three properties and amounts for each are included in the table below:

| Assessor’s Parcel Number | Size (Acres) | Amount |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 470-410-021 | 19.64 | \$ 34,630 |
| 471-172-002 | 5.09 | 12,762 |
| 471-260-046 | 4.90 | 9,070 |
| TOTAL | 29.63 | \$ 56,462 |

Although the RCA has notified the County of its intent to purchase the properties, the RCA must formally object to the sale by a resolution from the Board of Directors pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 3695. A resolution from the RCA must be adopted stating the Board objects to the public sale of these properties along with related fees.

To purchase the properties, the RCA shall pay for the delinquent taxes and all notice costs of the sale in a newspaper of general circulation in the County pursuant to Section 3800 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Therefore, the total purchase price for the properties provided by the County is approximately \$56,462.

Under the County’s rules, current property owners may pay the delinquent taxes and assessments at any time during the processing period, so it is possible that any of the properties could be removed from the tax-defaulted inventory prior to the RCA purchase being consummated.

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution and authorization to move forward with the process to acquire the properties.

| Financial Information | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| In Fiscal Year Budget: | N/A | Year: | FY 2022/23 | Amount: | \$56,462 |
| Source of Funds: | MSHCP Local Development Mitigation Fees | | | Budget Adjustment: | N/A |
| GL/Project Accounting No.: | 51633 935220 540040 | | | | |
| Fiscal Procedures Approved: | <i>Theresa Trevino</i> | | | Date: | April 27, 2021 |

Attachment: Resolution No. 2021-013

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-013

**Resolution of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Objecting to the Public Sale and Approving the Purchase of Tax-Defaulted
Property from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector**

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside Treasurer-Tax Collector's office has notified public agencies of its intent to sell tax-defaulted property for the purpose of collecting back taxes and penalties; and

WHEREAS, the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) has reviewed the proposed parcels for sale in areas of Riverside County, State of California, and has determined that the fee interests in Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 470410021, 471172002, and 471260046 (Properties) are desirable to contribute to Reserve Assembly goals; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside Treasurer-Tax Collector's office has determined the individual cost of acquisition per APN and is itemized as follows:

| APNs | Purchase Price |
|-------------|----------------|
| 470-410-021 | \$34,630 |
| 471-172-002 | \$12,762 |
| 471-260-046 | \$9,070 |

WHEREAS, the total cost for the Properties not to exceed \$56,462 including the non-refundable costs of the legal notices published in newspapers of general circulation published in Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, the RCA desires to purchase the Properties from the County of Riverside Treasurer-Tax Collector's office and has sufficient funds available to complete the purchase; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Properties will assist the RCA in providing open space for preservation of wildlife and plant life conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (Board), that the Board:

1. Hereby finds and declares that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. Objects to the public sale of the Properties.
3. Offers to purchase the Properties for approximately \$56,462.
4. Identifies the legal descriptions for the Properties as described on Exhibits "A" and depicted in Exhibits "B" attached hereto by reference.
5. Declares that the purchase of the Properties is to be devoted to public use for the purpose of habitat conservation for wildlife and plant life.

6. Approves paying for the cost of giving notice for the sale and purchase of the Tax Defaulted Property.

7. Authorizes the use of RCA MSHCP funds to pay for the purchase of the Tax Defaulted property.

8. Authorizes the Executive Director of the RCA to execute the documents necessary to purchase the Tax Defaulted Properties.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority this 3rd day of May 2021.

Natasha Johnson, Chair
Western Riverside County Regional
Conservation Authority

ATTEST:

Lisa Mobley, Clerk of the Board
Western Riverside County Regional
Conservation Authority

EXHIBITS “A”

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

Legal Description

APN 470410021

Parcel 11 of Parcel Map 7020, in the County of Riverside, State of California, as per map filed in Book 41, Pages 47-51 of Parcel Maps, records of Riverside County

Legal Description

APN 471172002

Parcel 2 of Parcel Map 10181, in the County of Riverside, State of California, as per map filed in Book 46, Page 7 of Parcel Maps, records of Riverside County

Legal Description

APN 471260046

Parcel 3 of Parcel Map No. 20965-1, in the County of Riverside, State of California, as per Map recorded in Book 151, Pages 35, 36, 37 and 38 of Parcel Maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said county.

Excepting therefrom that portion lying southerly of the northerly line of Lot "H" of said Parcel 3.

EXHIBITS “B”

DETAIL SITE MAPS

117°14'0"W

Tax Sale Parcels 2020 Detail 1

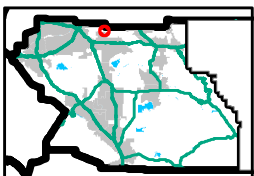


Habitat Management Unit - San Timoteo
 Rough Step Unit 2
 Area Plan - Reche Canyon / Badlands
 SubUnit - SU2 - Reche Canyon

33°59'0"N

33°59'0"N

117°14'0"W



- Tax Sale Parcel (2020)
- Criteria Cell
- City Boundary
- Centerline

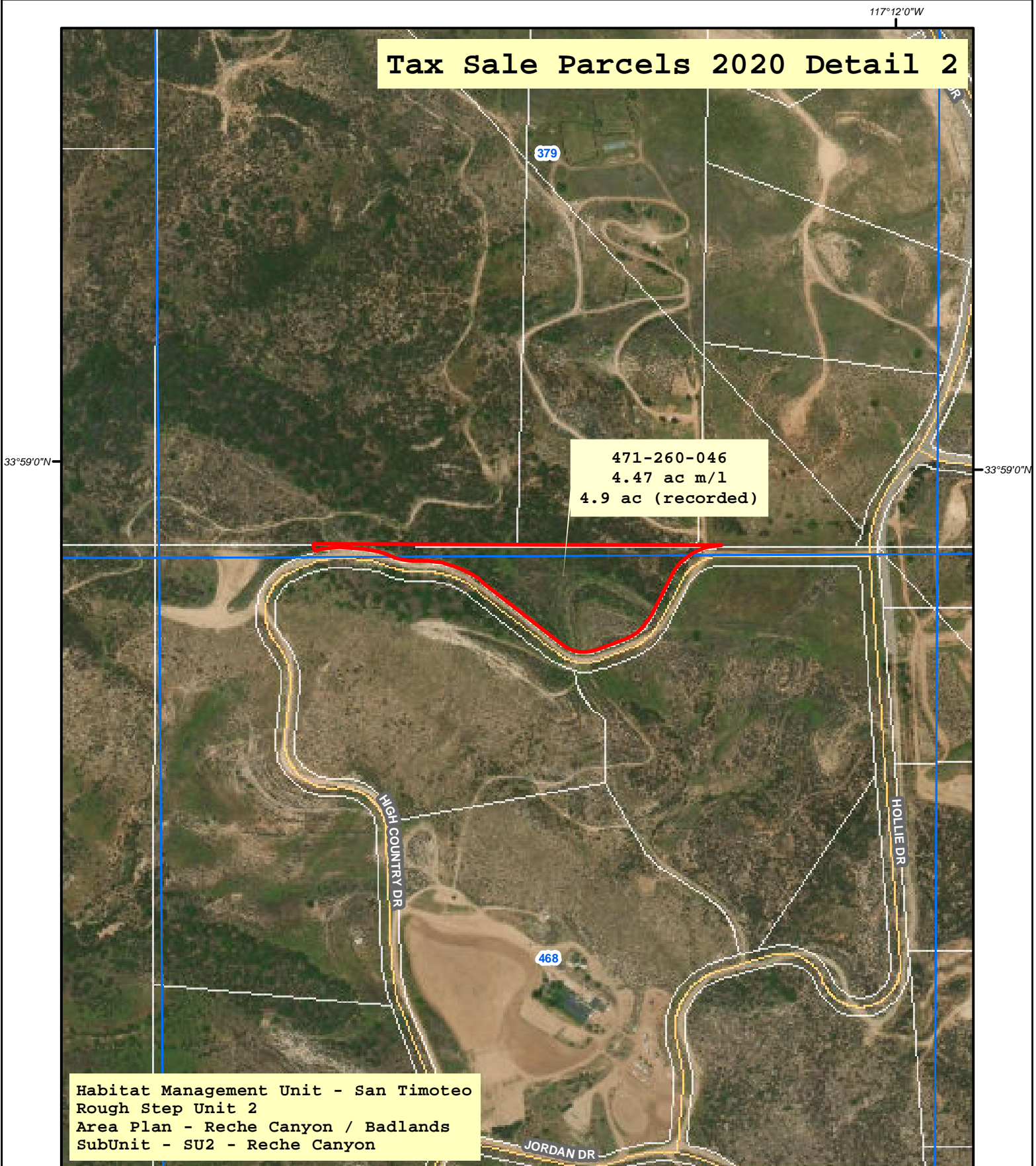


0 260 520 Feet



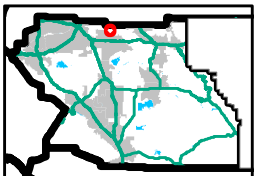
r22423

Tax Sale Parcels 2020 Detail 2



471-260-046
4.47 ac m/l
4.9 ac (recorded)

Habitat Management Unit - San Timoteo
Rough Step Unit 2
Area Plan - Reche Canyon / Badlands
SubUnit - SU2 - Reche Canyon



- Tax Sale Parcel (2020)
- Criteria Cell
- Centerline

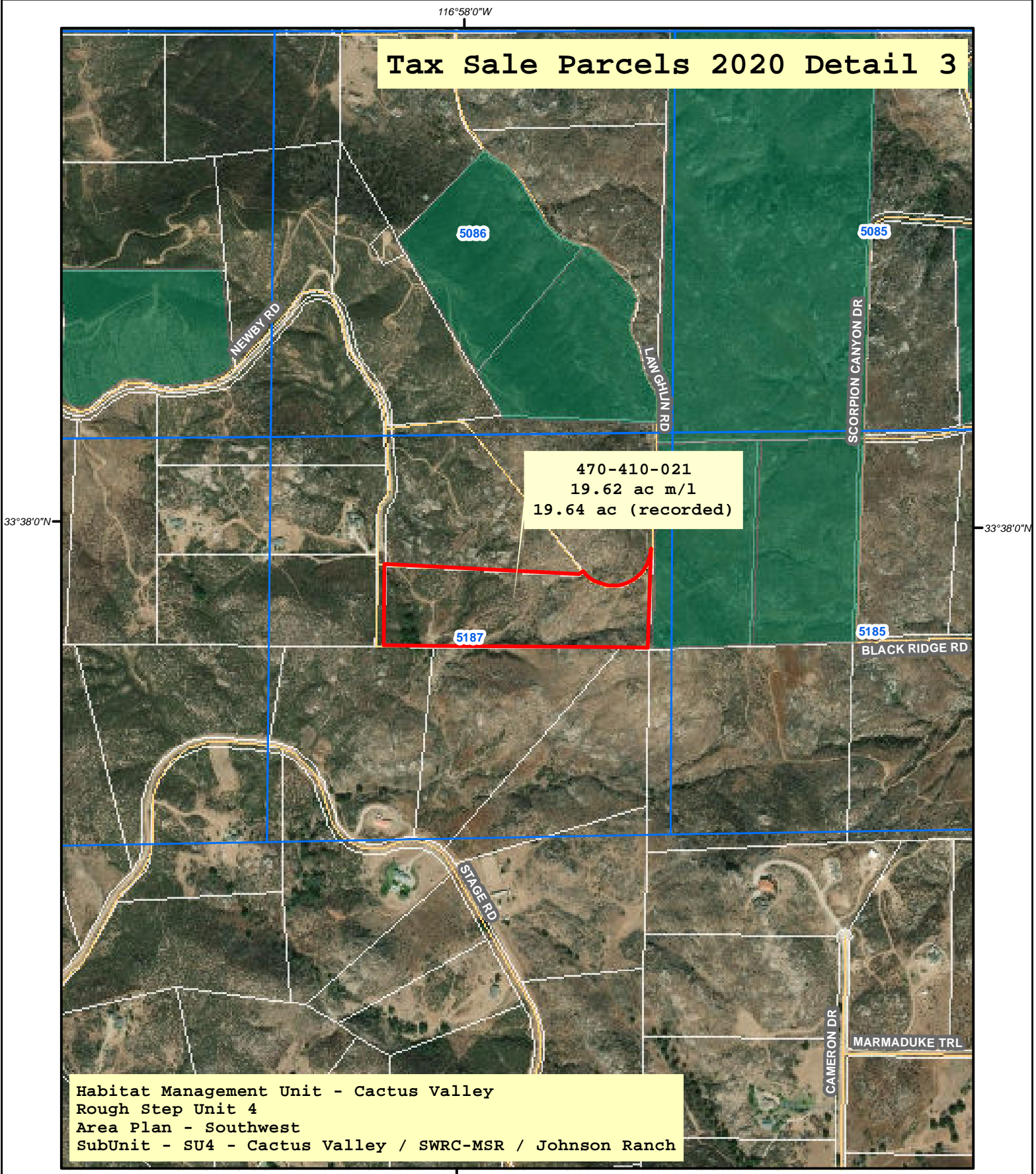


0 260 520 Feet



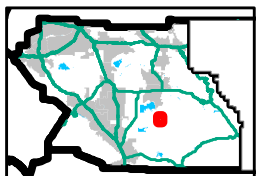
Created: March 18, 2020
Updated: March 22, 2021

Tax Sale Parcels 2020 Detail 3



470-410-021
 19.62 ac m/l
 19.64 ac (recorded)

Habitat Management Unit - Cactus Valley
 Rough Step Unit 4
 Area Plan - Southwest
 SubUnit - SU4 - Cactus Valley / SWRC-MSR / Johnson Ranch



- Tax Sale Parcel (2020)
- Criteria Cell
- RCA MSHCP Conserved Land
- Centerline



0 510 1,020 Feet



Created: March 18, 2020
 Updated: March 18, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 9

| | |
|---|---|
| WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | |
| DATE: | May 3, 2021 |
| TO: | Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority |
| FROM: | Executive Committee Cheryl Donahue, Public Affairs Manager |
| THROUGH: | Anne Mayer, Executive Director |
| SUBJECT: | Draft Public Outreach Plan |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive a presentation summarizing the Draft Public Outreach Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

One of the RCA’s renewed priorities, as a result of the consolidation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), is to strengthen communication and education with stakeholders, news media, and the public about the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP or Plan) and progress toward its completion. The adoption of a Public Outreach Plan provides the framework for this effort. The Public Outreach Plan uses a strategic, data-driven approach with multiple platforms to help increase awareness and support of RCA, the MSHCP, and its mission, with the pillars of Sustainability, Organizational Excellence, and Partnerships with Member Agencies embedded in all communications.

DISCUSSION:

Draft Public Outreach Plan

Educating and informing the public about the benefits of the MSHCP in western Riverside County is an important element to the success of the Plan. Public interest and support of the MSHCP help RCA’s efforts when seeking state and federal funds and establishes credibility among stakeholder groups. To accomplish these and other goals, staff has drafted a Public Outreach Plan for review and comment by the Executive Committee. Overall, the draft Public Outreach Plan is designed to communicate how the MSHCP benefits the quality of life in the region by preserving open space; protecting the region’s species; and accelerating construction of infrastructure and development projects. The Public Outreach Plan is also intended to explain how the MSHCP reduces project costs and provides permitting efficiencies that lead to economic growth.

The draft plan includes multiple public outreach strategies intended to build a comprehensive approach, targeting communities across multiple demographics. Each strategy will involve research, planning, communicating, and evaluating results. Every effort will be made to establish a two-way dialogue with the community, listen, and communicate in both English and Spanish as needed. Strategies will include:

1. Audience Identification: Prepare and maintain comprehensive database of email contacts
2. Key Messaging: Develop set of key messages for consistent use in public-facing communications
3. Social Media Engagement: Increase social media followers, reach, engagement, and impressions
4. Video Engagement: Produce brief, engaging, in-house videos for social media, web, and digital communications
5. Website Engagement: Increase website visits and align site content with key messaging
6. News Content: Publish monthly electronic newsletters and send periodic news releases with items of interest to stakeholders, the public, and news media
7. Presentations: Schedule presentations to partner agencies, environmental and private sector groups, city councils, and community/civic organizations
8. School Resources: Develop curriculum packages for multiple grade levels and initiate outreach planning
9. Recreational Opportunities: Educate the public about ways to enjoy and learn about protected lands within the MSHCP and to use proper trail etiquette

As part of the new management structure that took effect in January 2021, RCTC ended the contract with the RCA's previous public relations consultant and will use its internal Public Affairs Department resources to implement this Public Outreach Plan. RCTC has reviewed past RCA communications materials and practices for historical knowledge and to build upon previous outreach efforts.

To ensure accountability, staff will produce and present to the Board quarterly metrics reports. The reports will analyze the effectiveness of the communications strategies over time and enable staff to adjust the outreach approach as needed.

Attachment: Draft 2021-22 Public Outreach Plan



Draft 2021-22 Public Outreach Plan

Introduction

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority implements the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), created in 2004. The goal of the MSHCP is to establish a 500,000-acre reserve for the conservation of 146 animal and plant species. At the same time, the plan expedites construction of regional infrastructure, including transportation projects, and aids in the permitting process for residential, commercial, and industrial developments by streamlining environmental approvals. To date, the RCA and its state and federal partners have assembled 82% of the identified acreage.

One of the RCA's top priorities is to strengthen communication and education with stakeholders and the public about the RCA, progress toward completing the MSHCP, and its benefit to the region. This Public Outreach Plan will use a strategic and data-driven approach with multiple platforms to help increase awareness and support of the RCA, the MSHCP, and its mission.

Background and Staffing

In January 2021, the Riverside County Transportation Commission became the managing agency for the RCA with unanimous support from governing bodies for both agencies. As part of this new management structure, RCTC ended the contract with the RCA's previous public relations consultant and is using its External Affairs Department resources, with limited consulting resources to implement the Public Outreach Plan. RCTC has reviewed and will build upon previous RCA public outreach activities.

Communication Approach

The plan includes a combination of strategies. Each component of the plan will involve research, action planning, communication activities, and evaluation of results. Every effort will be made to establish a two-way dialogue with the community, listen, and communicate in both English and Spanish as needed. Staff will provide quarterly progress reports to allow the RCA to gauge progress and enable staff to adjust its approach. Communication activities will include:

- Audience identification
- Key messages
- Social media engagement
- Video engagement
- Website engagement
- News content
- Stakeholder engagement
- School resources
- Recreational opportunities

Public Outreach Plan

| Activity 1: Audience Identification | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review email list (364 contacts) • Determine database categories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand database with elected officials, city managers, agency staff, resource agencies, chambers of commerce, schools, environmental groups, property owners, recreational groups, tribal contacts, consultants, RCTC and RCA staff, others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use database for newsletter and other communications • Encourage public to register for email updates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test lists, resolve or remove undeliverable emails • Provide quarterly progress toward goal • Adjust approach as needed |
| Activity 2: Key Messaging | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing RCA messaging used in various platforms • Research background of messaging; note discrepancies and resolve as needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt set of clear, concise, correct, and complete key messages to explain the RCA, the MSHCP, and its mission • Beta-test messaging and adjust • Develop online survey of database to check for understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use consistent messaging in all public-facing communications • Conduct survey of draft messaging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze level of understanding based on overall engagement, requests for clarification, and survey results |
| Activity 3: Social Media Engagement | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research metrics • Align handles to @WesternRCA • Grow Facebook followers from 249 to 1,000; grow Twitter followers from 28 to 112; grow Instagram followers from 149 to 450. Grow engagement by 300%, if aided by consistent digital ads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop “Like” campaign and leverage relationships with partners, resource agencies and key contacts to expand social media presence • Create engaging, relevant content calendar • Respond quickly to questions and comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch “Like” campaign and assess results • Contact partner agencies and others to post content and follow/like/share • Place targeted digital ads with videos of species of the month, wildlife areas, and other content with high likelihood of engagement • Use Facebook and Instagram stories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report quarterly progress toward goals • Adjust approach as needed |
| Activity 4: Video Engagement | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze previous video use and response | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create video content calendar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create dedicated YouTube channel, publish videos, and feature in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report quarterly progress toward goals |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase video views from 43 to 86 on Facebook and to 50 views on YouTube with organic videos. Increase to 1,600 views per day on Facebook and YouTube, based on budgeted ads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop in-house videos of species of the month, getting to know RCA, and recreational opportunities | <p>social media posts, website, digital ads, newsletter, and presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce 8-10 in-house videos per year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust approach as needed |
|---|--|--|---|

Activity 5: Website Engagement

| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research website analytics • Increase website traffic by 375 visitors per month with organic posts and by another 285 visitors per month with budgeted ads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review content for alignment with key messages, with a focus on clear, correct, concise, and complete messaging sitewide, including visuals and graphics • Ensure site is optimized for mobile devices and ADA compliance • Drive visitors to website to learn about the RCA, the MSHCP and its mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise content as needed • Post new content, including videos, visuals, and graphics • Adopt changes to site content and post new content • Conduct twice-annual reviews of site content for continued alignment with key messages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report quarterly progress toward visitation goals • Monitor duration on site, channels used to access the site, top pages visited, and visits via desktop versus mobile devices • Adjust approach as needed |

Activity 6: News Content

| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review previous newsletter issues and metrics • Change newsletter name/design to reflect the RCA view toward the future • Increase distribution to match database contacts, increase open rates to 35%, expand click-throughs to 20% • Review previous news releases and op-ed pieces, resulting news | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish monthly newsletters with content aligned to key messages • Create calendar of upcoming newsletter content • Develop list of potential news stories and op-ed pieces • Update news media contact lists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute newsletters following each RCA board meeting • Embed videos and links in newsletters to allow readers to learn more • Publish newsletters each month • Distribute news releases and op-ed pieces based on strategic decisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report quarterly progress toward newsletter goals • Adjust approach as needed |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| items, and media lists | | | |
| Activity 7: Stakeholder Engagement | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to proactively connect and engage with partner agencies, elected officials, and stakeholder groups • Compile list for briefings and presentations; form Speakers Bureau • Schedule/give 4 presentations per quarter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop presentation template aligned to RCA key messages • Prioritize communications with chambers of commerce, environmental groups, and community organizations • Coordinate with Legislative Affairs to communicate with city councils, state/federal agencies, and elected officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule and give presentations and respond to/document audience questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report quarterly progress toward presentation goals • Adjust approach as needed |
| Activity 8: School Resources – Year 2 | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing school resource materials • Study effective school programs and steps for implementation, including adapting curricula from programs like Project WILD • Review City of Riverside and scouting connections; assess project “champions” • Analyze if consultant help is needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan to implement program • Determine timing and budget • If consultant help is needed, draft task order and budget • Compile list of western Riverside County schools to approach with school resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post materials to website • Launch program to teach students about the RCA, its mission, the need to preserve habitat for endangered and threatened species, and the role the RCA plays in the environment, housing, transportation, and the economy • Complete analysis and recommendations by early 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin reporting on progress in mid-2022 • Adjust approach as needed |
| Activity 9: Recreational Opportunities – Year 2 | | | |
| Research | Action Items | Communication | Evaluation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review recreational opportunities materials on website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare action plan for implementing successful program • Determine program timing and budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch program to encourage visits to wildlife areas/reserves • Complete analysis and recommendations by early 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin reporting on progress in mid-2023 • Adjust approach as needed |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze existing visits to RCA recreational areas and ways to reach targeted groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile list of western Riverside County hiking, running, cycling, and equestrian groups to target | | |
|---|--|--|--|

AGENDA ITEM 10

| | |
|---|---|
| WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY | |
| DATE: | May 3, 2021 |
| TO: | Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority |
| FROM: | Executive Committee Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager |
| THROUGH: | Anne Mayer, Executive Director |
| SUBJECT: | Rough Step Compliance Communication |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file this informational item on Rough Step Compliance Communication.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) requires the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) to perform an annual analysis of habitat losses to gains through what is known as Rough Step. Rough Step is a measurement tool that ensures development and conservation are in balance. When take of specific vegetation communities outpaces conservation of those same communities, Rough Step is out of compliance. The RCA calculates Rough Step balances annually based on permit data from all Permittees and habitat conservation that has been achieved. Results of the Rough Step analysis is prepared in an Annual Report, available to state and federal regulatory agencies that oversee implementation of the MSHCP as well as to the public.

As presented in the 2019 Annual Report, the conservation gains and habitat losses for two vegetation communities within three Rough Step Units are out of compliance, specifically Rough Step Units 3, 5, and 7. There is a fourth, Rough Step Unit 8, that has been out of compliance since inception of the Plan, and as such is treated differently by the RCA and state and federal regulatory agencies and is not part of this communication.

On page 6-96, Section 6.7 of Volume I, the MSHCP states:

If the Rough Step rule is not met during any analysis period the Permittees must conserve appropriate lands supporting a specified Vegetation Community within the Analysis Unit to bring the Plan back into the parameters of the rule prior to authorizing additional loss of the Vegetation Community for which the rule was not achieved.

Therefore, a Permittee is not to authorize removal of a vegetation community that is out of Rough Step compliance. This would apply to any projects within a criteria cell that occurs within the

Rough Step Unit that is out of compliance and which propose removal of a vegetation type that is out of Rough Step.

To ensure a Permittee with jurisdiction in Rough Step Units 3, 5, and 7 is aware and understands this MSHCP requirement, the RCA will be sending an email and letter to each Permittee with jurisdiction within Rough Step Units 3, 5, and 7. A sample letter is attached. This staff report is intended to give advance notice to the RCA Board of Directors that Permittees will receive this communication and answer any questions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the RCA for sending the Rough Step Compliance Communication.

Attachment: Sample Rough Step Compliance Letter to Permittees



4080 Lemon St. 3rd Fl. Riverside, CA 92502
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12008 Riverside, CA 92502-2208
951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

[MM dd], 2021

[Permittee (e.g., City Manager)]

RE: Western Riverside County Multiple Species Conservation Plan Rough Step Compliance

Dear [Name]:

This letter is to inform your agency as a Permittee of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSHCP, the Plan) that the conservation gains to habitat losses for two vegetation communities within three Rough Step Units are out of compliance, specifically Rough Step Units 3, 5, and 7. If you are receiving this letter it means this affects your agency.

Rough Step is a measurement tool within the MSHCP that ensures development and conservation are in balance. When take of specific vegetation communities outpaces conservation of those same communities, Rough Step is out of compliance. The RCA calculates Rough Step balances annually based on permit data from all Permittees and habitat conservation that has been achieved. Results of the Rough Step analysis is prepared in an Annual Report, available to MSHCP Permittees, state and federal regulatory agencies that oversee implementation of the MSHCP as well as to the public on the RCA website.

On page 6-96, Section 6.7 of Volume I, the MSHCP states:

If the Rough Step rule is not met during any analysis period the Permittees must conserve appropriate lands supporting a specified Vegetation Community within the Analysis Unit to bring the Plan back into the parameters of the rule prior to authorizing additional loss of the Vegetation Community for which the rule was not achieved.

Therefore, a Permittee is not to authorize removal of a vegetation community that is out of Rough Step compliance. This would apply to any projects within a criteria cell that occurs within the Rough Step Unit that is out of compliance and which propose removal of a vegetation type that is out of Rough Step. Each Permittee is encouraged to consult with the RCA on current rough step allowances prior to issuing grading permits or other forms of discretionary ground disturbing activities. The RCA website provides current Rough Step Balances at <https://www.wrc-rca.org/> under the tab, "MAPS - Annual Report Dash Board – Rough Step Balance."

Table 1 below summarizes the Rough Step Units out of compliance. In addition, the RCA is providing information on the steps we are taking to achieve Rough Step balance. For Rough Step Units 3 and 5 it is likely the RCA will be able to resolve the issue soon due to pending habitat acquisitions. Conversely, resolving the Rough Step Unit 7 issue for Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) will need the support and collaboration between the Permittees affected and the RCA. The challenge for

Rough Step Unit 7 is that most of the RAFSS vegetation described for conservation is in Temescal Wash and not likely to become available for acquisition given existing mining operations.

Table 1. Out of Rough Step Compliance Summary

| ROUGH STEP UNIT OUT OF COMPLIANCE | VEGETATION OUT OF COMPLIANCE | OUT OF ROUGH STEP AMOUNT (AC.)¹ | AMOUNT TO GET BACK INTO COMPLIANCE (AC.) | PERMITTEE JURISDICTION WITHIN ROUGH STEP UNIT² | RCA UPDATE |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Rough Step Unit 3 | Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) | -2.36 | +2.92 | Moreno Valley, Riverside, Perris, Menifee, San Jacinto, Hemet, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, RCTC, Caltrans, and California Depart. of Parks & Recreation | In escrow on properties that would rectify the issue |
| Rough Step Unit 5 | Riparian Scrub, Woodland, Forest | -1.00 | +5.67 | Wildomar, Murrieta, Temecula, Lake Elsinore, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, RCTC, Caltrans, and California Depart. of Parks & Recreation | In escrow on properties that would rectify the issue |
| Rough Step Unit 7 | Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) | -4.26 | +26.35 | Lake Elsinore, Perris, Riverside, Corona, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space | RCA is in escrow on a property and actively pursuing |

¹ A negative Rough Step balance indicates that development has outpaced conservation.

² Refer to Attachment Figure 6-6 – Rough Step Analysis Units with Criteria Area.

| ROUGH STEP UNIT OUT OF COMPLIANCE | VEGETATION OUT OF COMPLIANCE | OUT OF ROUGH STEP AMOUNT (AC.)¹ | AMOUNT TO GET BACK INTO COMPLIANCE (AC.) | PERMITTEE JURISDICTION WITHIN ROUGH STEP UNIT² | RCA UPDATE |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| | | | | District, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources, RCTC, Caltrans, and California Depart. of Parks & Recreation | willing sellers |

The RCA will be reaching out to your Community Development Department to discuss this further. Please contact me at (951) 787-7141 or amayer@rctc.org if you have any questions. In the meantime, please share this information with your Community Development Department to ensure compliance with the MSHCP.

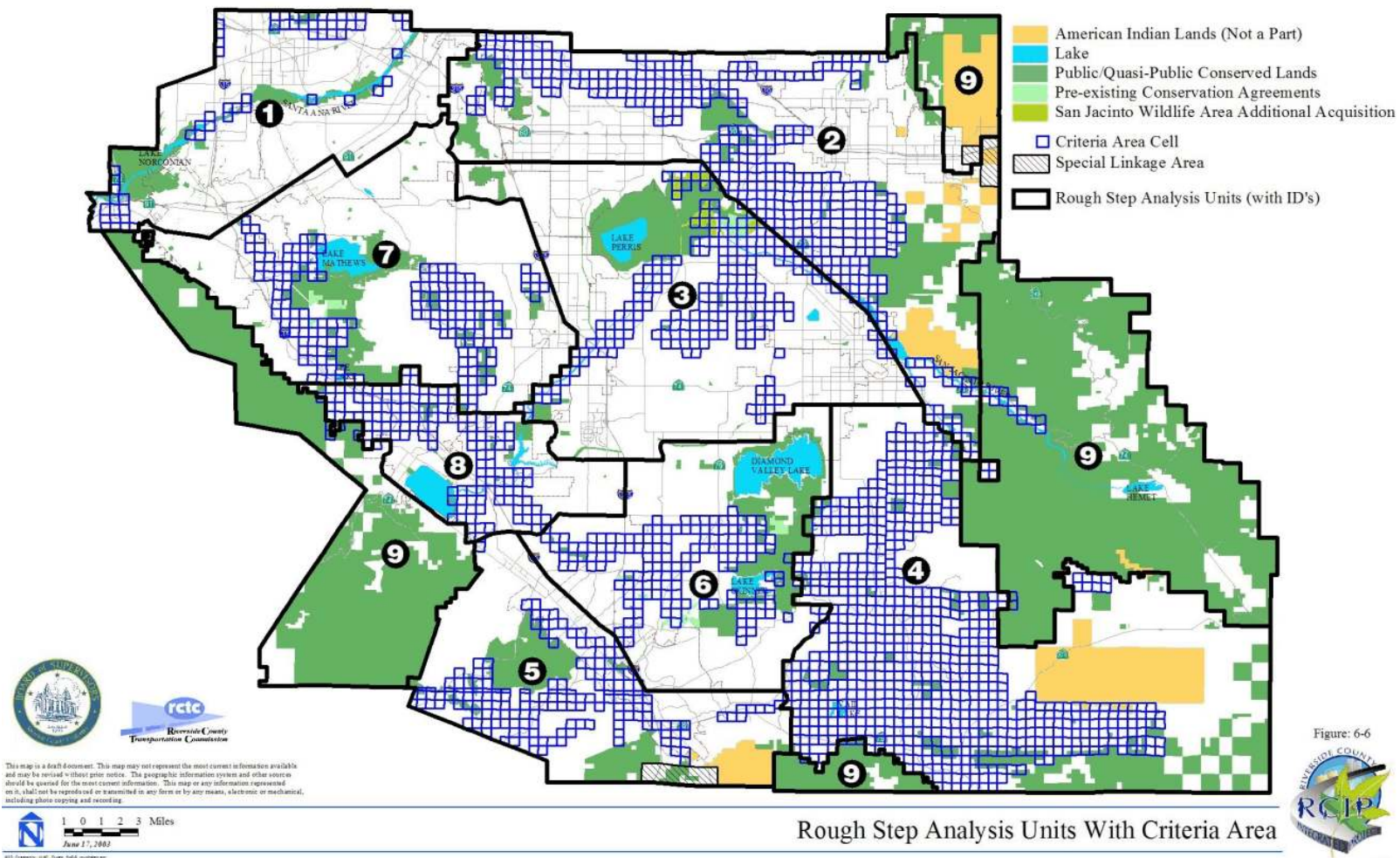
Sincerely,

Anne Mayer
 Executive Director
 Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

Attachments:
 Figure 6-6 Rough Step Analysis Units with Criteria Area



6.0 MSHCP Implementation Structure



AGENDA ITEM 11

PRESENTATION