



MEETING AGENDA

TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. / Monday, October 4, 2021

This meeting is being conducted in accordance with AB 361 due to state or local officials recommending measures to promote social distancing.

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 / Russ Brown, 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 Menifee
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
Patricia Lock Dawson / Steve Hemenway, 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, October 4, 2021

This meeting is being conducted in accordance with AB 361 due to state or local officials recommending measures to promote social distancing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rctc.zoom.us/j/84804128422>

Call in: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 848 0412 8422

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84804128422#

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 October 3, 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. **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).*

6A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

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6B. **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021**

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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 August 2021.

6C. **ACQUISITIONS STATUS REPORT**

Page 11

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the acquisitions status report as of August 31, 2021.

7. **JOINT PROJECT REVIEW STATUS REPORT**

Page 16

Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Joint Project Review (JPR) monthly status report as of August 31, 2021.

8. **STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS UPDATE**

Page 18

Overview

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

9. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-015 AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR EVALUATING QUINO CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY (*EUPHYDRYAS EDITHA QUINO*) HOSTPLANT MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT SOIL TYPES

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Overview

This item is for the Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2021-015, “*Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of Grant Funds for Evaluating Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*; QCB) Hostplant Morphological Characters Associated with Different Soil Types Predominant in the Vicinity of a QCB Metapopulation in Southwestern Riverside County, with Relevance to QCB Population Ecology and Conservation*”.

10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Page 27

Overview

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

11. PRESENTATION – SPECIES OF THE MONTH

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 Board activities.

- Stakeholders Committee Update

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, November 1, 2021**, via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEM 6A

MINUTES

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 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 899 7437 4281, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Directors/Alternates Present

Kevin Jeffries
Karen Spiegel
Chuck Washington
Jeff Hewitt*
Colleen Wallace
Julio Martinez
Jeff Cervantez
Larry Greene
Tony Daddario
Jocelyn Yow
Linda Krupa

Lorena Barajas
Natasha Johnson
Lesa Sobek
David Marquez
Jonathan Ingram
Kevin Bash
David Starr Rabb
Patricia Lock Dawson
Crystal Ruiz
Maryann Edwards
Ben J. Benoit

Board of Directors Absent

V. Manuel Perez

*Arrived after the meeting was called to order.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Daddario.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Lara, Mayor of Beaumont, offered comments on pre-payments of MSHCP ordinance fees. As a former County employee who regularly reviewed fee ordinances and was responsible for collecting various developer fees, he believes RCA should take advantage of Section 2, Administrative Responsibilities, of the ordinance and adopt a policy to allow the cities to authorize RCA to calculate and collect fees directly. This action should take place prior to the next fee increase. With each city developing their own process, there is no consistency, and the details of pre-payment agreements are unknown to RCA.

At this time, Board Member Hewitt joined the meeting.

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 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	915-280-013	Chambers Family, LLC	RCA
2	426-420-008	Riverpark Investors LLC	RCA
3	470-410-025	Ramona Perez Greek Trust	RCA
4	424-190-020, 424-190-021, 424-190-022, and 424-190-024	County of Riverside	RCA

6B. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There were no announcements 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).

Board Member Sobek requested Agenda Item 7E be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

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

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 12, 2021

7B. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2021

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

7C. SINGLE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY REPORT

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Single Signature Authority report for the fourth quarter ended June 30, 2021.

7D. QUARTERLY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT METRICS REPORT, APRIL-JUNE 2021

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file report summarizing the Quarterly Public Engagement Metrics.

7E. ACQUISITIONS STATUS REPORT

Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager, provided an explanation of this new monthly item that will detail the status of current acquisitions. The item is indented to give the Board Members an idea of how many acquisition projects are being managed by staff and categorize them. There are currently 46 active acquisitions in progress, and there have been 11 closed escrows since January.

Board Member Sobek wanted to know why some listed properties have a representative listed, while others do not. Mr. Casillas noted that the representatives listed are not the actual property owners, they are individuals hired by the owners to work on their behalf. Board Member Sobek also wanted to know if the properties listed were in order by date received and whether the date received would affect purchasing a property. Mr. Casillas stated that there isn't a particular order to the listing. When RCTC took over RCA, there was a large document of acquisition status, that was modified and split into categories. The order of the properties and date received would only come into play for Non-Development HANS, as they are done on a first come, first served basis.

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

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the acquisitions status report as of July 31, 2021.

7F. FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 FOURTH QUARTER CONSULTANT REPORTS

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the FY 2020/21 Fourth Quarter Consultant Reports.

8. FEE REDUCTION FOR HOME ADDITIONS

Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director, provided a presentation on a proposal to reduce the MSHCP fee for homeowners who are adding square footage to their home through renovations or remodels. This proposal is a solution to a problem that member agencies identified in the new MSHCP ordinance, that resulted in higher fees charged to local residents. The 2020 Nexus Study, Model Fee Ordinance and Resolution, and the Mitigation Fee Implementation Manual were all approved by the RCA Board in December 2020, and then forwarded to member agencies for their approval.

Earlier this year, the City of Norco staff raised a concern that someone just adding a few square feet to their residence could trigger a full per-unit MSHCP fee. This would be the same fee a developer would pay when building a new house. The city requested RCA take action to create a more equitable fee structure for home remodels. RCA staff agreed, as the intent with the 2020 Ordinance was to correct a past practice in the original MSHCP, where all additions and renovations, no matter the size, were practically exempt from the fee. Fees are charged to remodels because the Nexus Study must be compliant with the California Mitigation Fee Act, and it addresses regional impacts of new development on habitat, as any development could create an increased impact.

The proposed solution is to amend the implementation manual to treat additions to homes the same as Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs), whose fee calculation is rooted in state government code. On a home where the property had not previously paid the MSHCP fee because it was built or received its' permit prior to inception, an addition of 749 square feet or less would not incur a fee, but an addition of 750 square feet or more would incur a proportional fee. This amendment would be retroactive and effective as of July 1, 2021, meaning a homeowner who had already paid a whole unit fee after July 1st could be eligible for a partial or full refund. This amendment would not increase fees on any homeowner compared to the current RCA Board approved policy.

If the amendment is adopted, a 2,000 square foot home, that had not previously paid the MSHCP fee, in a low-density area adding a 200 square feet addition would not have to pay a fee. That same home adding a 1,000 square foot addition would only have to pay \$1,467.50. As the implementation manual is currently, any addition on the same house would pay \$2,935.

Board Member Ingram wanted to know what kind of impact this amendment would have on a structure that was destroyed by a fire or natural disaster. Mr. Hake noted that the model ordinance that was approved states that properties destroyed by fire or other natural causes are exempt from fee, so long as the improvements do not result in additional usable square footage. If the property owner were to build a larger home that what was previously there, the same methodology would be used for any additional square footage.

Board Member Ingram stated he was not a fan of retroactively charging fees on properties that existed prior to the MSHCP. It's concerning to do a track map on a property, as they are assessed based on the square footage of the lot and/or acreage of the development, and the offsite and onsite improvements have already been charged. This amendment comes across as double dipping. He is opposed to this amendment.

Board Member Edwards asked Board Member Ingram if he was opposed to the MSHCP fees in the beginning. Board Member Ingram stated he was opposed to the fees from the beginning.

Chair Johnson noted that the Board had already approved the fee as is and wanted to confirm that Board Member Ingram's opposition was to the basis of the MSHCP.

Board Member Ingram stated that he was not opposed to the MSHCP, but during the transition to RCTC, this concept came full circle after speaking with people who were out there. He is not opposed to charging for an ADU, but rather opposed to owners who had existing properties and already paid a fee being charged when they aren't increasing their footprint and wouldn't have an impact on the MSHCP. Mr. Hake clarified that this amendment would only apply to homes on properties that have not already paid the MSHCP fee. A home that was developed after 2004, would have presumably paid the MSHCP fee and would not be subject to an additional fee if additional square footage was added. This amendment is only to address those homes where the original construction of the house was prior to MSHCP inception and have not triggered another discretionary permit on the property.

Board Member Ingram does not understand why building an addition of over 750 square feet would trigger a fee, when the extra hundred or more square feet does not impact the plan. RCA should not be charging any fees retroactively unless a direct correlation to the impact of the plan can be shown.

Board Member Washington thought this amendment could be confusing and wanted to clarify that Board Member Ingram was not opposed to fees on ADUs but to home additions, of which the distinction is unclear, when both would have people living in them. The foundation of the MSHCP is development, and therefore people living in the developments are impacting the MSHCP. Also, the use of the term retroactive is used in the amendment to refer to the decrease of fees going back to July 1, 2021, whereas Board Member Ingram is speaking to properties built prior to 2004 that have never been subject to an MSHCP fee. Mr. Hake confirmed the statements, noting that the complicated issue was distilled down to a few sentences.

Board Member Ingram stated that the MSHCP is there to protect habitat and species against the impact of development, not the individuals who live in a structure. An ADU could create additional vehicles and travel.

Board Member Ruiz agreed that this is a complicated issue and Board Member Ingram raises some good points. She wondered if a house that was built prior to 2004, would be subjected to a fee if it had decided to enclose a porch. Mr. Hake noted that an enclosed porch is not something that triggers the MSHCP fee, and the implementation manual does provide guidance on what is considered eligible as usable square footage. The intent is based on the square footage of the house and living space.

Board Member Bash understands Board Member Ingram's position, but the state of California has stepped in on the building and use of ADUs, noting they can be detached as well as attached. The reality is there are sometimes 2 and 3 families living in a home and that is the true impact of this. If someone is adding living space, per the state it is considered an ADU, and it will have an impact on the MSHCP.

Board Member Jeffries wanted to clarify that every residential property adding on to their home even if they were no direct impacts to any criteria cell would pay a fee under normal

circumstances to contribute to the overall plan to acquire land, with no existing residential neighborhoods being exempt. Mr. Hake confirmed that was true.

Board Member Edwards expressed concerns about whether applying these fees would be considered discouraging to ADUs. With the new California law, we can't discourage or impede the construction of ADUs. Mr. Hake assured the Board the proposed amendment does not address or change the way fees are assessed on ADUs. The amendment simply states that home additions will be treated in the same way as ADUs. The ADU formula used is set in state law, which the RCA would not be able to amend.

Board Member Hewitt noted that homes built prior to the MSHCP have previously been grandfathered in, and this amendment would rectify that.

Board Member Sobek appreciated the discussion, but noted that differences aside, action did need to be taken to correct the current fees, whereby even a small addition would be subject to the full fee.

M/S/C (Dawson/Wallace) to:

No: Ingram

- 1) Approve the update to the MSHCP Mitigation Fee Implementation Manual providing reduced fees for home renovations that add square footage; and**
- 2) Approve the retroactive implementation to July 1, 2021.**

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

David Knudsen, Interim External Affairs Manager, provided an update on state and federal legislative activities. With the conclusion of the 2021 Legislative Session, Governor Newsom will be considering over 800 bills until October 10th. A priority for RCA this year has been to advocate for state investment in habitat conservation and land acquisition. Through the approved legislative platform, Legislative Affairs staff advocated for the proposed Climate Wildfire Resiliency Bond Measures (AB 1500/SB 45) to include \$500 million in dedicated funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), with a \$100 million carve out for California's Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). As a result of the \$85 billion surplus, the Legislature opted to table the bond measures in favor of an expansive one-time Climate Resiliency Spending Package. The package includes a proposal to spend \$3.7 billion over three years, however, only \$440 million has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. It's important to note that no budget may obligate general fund spending of future fiscal years, therefore, the \$3.7 billion figure should be seen as advisory.

The Legislature followed an irregular budget cycle this year sending broad spending levels in June and July, with details to be negotiated in the following months in the form of budget trailer bills. During that time, the Legislative Affairs team engaged the Western Riverside Delegation and worked with the State HCP Coalition to engage legislative leadership to advocate for

\$500 million in dedicated funding to the WCB. Last week, the Legislature unveiled details of the negotiated Climate Resiliency Package, which only included a \$31 million increase to WCB's local assistance budget, bringing the total to \$96 million for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The modest increase is appreciated, but the real issue remains ensuring that the Legislature upholds its' three-year funding commitment with increased funding to the WCB.

The House is expected to take up the bi-partisan Infrastructure Invest and Jobs Act no later than September 27th, as well as pass a budget reconciliation resolution which is being drafted in both the House and the Senate. There will also be a debt limit increase to contend with, as well as a mark-up of senate appropriation bills. All these issues must be settled by the end of September, which represents the end of the federal fiscal year.

Lastly, the Legislative Affairs team continues to monitor progress on the effort to establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge. While language is no longer included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill, Representative Calvert's bill HR 972 continues to move through the House committee process and Senator Feinstein is drafting a bill with RCA's consultation. The Legislative Affairs team will continue to engage in the legislative process to seek out resources that will support the MSHCP in Western Riverside County.

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

10. PRESENTATION - GETTING TO KNOW THE MSHCP

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, provided a presentation on the Meet and Confer, which is a central responsibility of RCA in the administering of the MSHCP. The Meet and Confer is a step that may be needed once a Joint Project Review (JPR) is performed. The Meet and Confer process is addressed in Section 6.6.2 in Volume I of the MSHCP.

A Meet and Confer can only occur for projects that are within cells, or in other words where potential reserve assembly may be needed. Projects that are within cells go through the JPR process, when the permittee with land use authority and the RCA disagree that a project is consistent with the plan a Meet and Confer can occur. The Meet and Confer would include the land use permittee and RCA, with the project applicant also being invited, and must occur within 30 calendar days of RCA's JPR findings.

During the Meet and Confer, the permittee and RCA meet to resolve issues, including the development of conditions of approval or other requirements to ensure compliance. If resolution occurs, no further action is taken. If there is no resolution, then the matter goes to an elected official Ad Hoc Committee for MSHCP consistency determination. Since the inception of the MSHCP in 2004, the RCA has been involved in 9 Meet and Confers.

11. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director, wanted to announce that RCA is working with Chair Johnson to organize a plan to implement the RCA Stakeholder Committee. This committee is in the RCA by-laws and was one of the objectives identified for this year. There will be more information sent out in the coming weeks.

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 1:51 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on **Monday, October 4, 2021**, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Mobley
Administrative Services Manager/
Clerk of the Board

AGENDA ITEM 6B

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	October 4, 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 for August 2021

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 August 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 and \$20 million for FY 2021/22. Other fees are contributed by Member Agencies and other jurisdictions for civic and infrastructure projects. RCA budgeted \$490,000 for such contributions in FY 2020/21 and \$559,000 for FY 2021/22.

Attached is the LDMF Collection and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution report for August 2021, which reflects combined collections to date of \$36,399,550 for FY 2020/21 and \$2,393,689 for FY 2021/22.

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 August 2021

<i>Approved by the Executive Committee on September 15, 2021</i>					
In Favor:	5	Abstain:	0	No:	0

**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP LDMF COLLECTION AND CIVIC/INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION REPORT
AUGUST 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 21 Year-to-Date	Total FY 22 Year-to-Date	Residential Permits	Commercial Industrial Acres	Amount
City of Banning	May Additional-Rcvd Sept June July-Rcvd Sept	202	38.81	\$ 746,457	\$ 1,060,637	\$ -			
City of Beaumont	July	55	0.770	170,651	1,407,592	170,651			
City of Calimesa	July-No Activity			-	2,601,045	-			
City of Canyon Lake	July-No Activity			-	33,510	-			
City of Corona	July-No Activity			-	1,021,822	-			
City of Eastvale	June July-No Activity		4.06	30,903	788,925	-			
City of Hemet	June Additional July	11 10		24,574 29,350	1,980,224	29,350			
City of Jurupa Valley	July-Pending			-	2,199,367	-			
City of Lake Elsinore	July	1	1.44	13,888	267,852	13,888			
City of Menifee	June July-Pending	2,559	80.44	6,267,529	9,240,103	-			
City of Moreno Valley	July	35		114,642	1,278,628	114,642			
City of Murrieta	July-No Activity			-	1,182,148	-			
City of Norco	June July		105.42	801,825 2,935	804,059	2,935			
City of Perris	July-Pending			-	1,553,238	-			
City of Riverside	June July-Pending			132	494,210	-			
City of San Jacinto	July	25	1.03	85,176	599,559	85,176			
City of Temecula	June July-Pending Roripaugh DA ¹	15	6.62	71,802	616,900	-	23		\$ 51,382
City of Wildomar	April May June July-Pending	1 1 2	9.18	2,234 2,234 74,317	190,485	-			
County of Riverside	August	336		773,697	8,677,095	1,631,166			
Total LDMF Collections		3,254	247.78	\$ 9,212,345	\$ 35,997,398	\$ 2,047,809	23	0.00	\$ 51,382

CIVIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS				Total FY 21 Year-to-Date	Total FY 22 Year-to-Date
Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Romoland MDP		\$128,408		\$128,408
City of Riverside	Monroe MDP		195,371		195,371
Riverside County Facilities Management	French Valley Library		22,101		22,101
Prior Civic and Infrastructure contributions from Member Agencies				\$402,152	\$0
Total Civic/Infrastructure Contributions			\$ 345,881	\$402,152	\$345,881

TOTAL AUGUST 2021 \$ 9,558,226 \$ 36,399,550 \$ 2,393,689

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

AGENDA ITEM 6C

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	October 4, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Acquisitions Status Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the acquisitions status report as of August 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Board of Directors requested the Right of Way Department to provide a monthly report of the status of various acquisitions.

Since RCTC became the managing agency for RCA on January 1, 2021, 13 parcels closed escrow and 31 new parcels began the acquisition process. As of August 31, 2021, staff is managing 45 active parcels, including three new acquisition projects during August.

Collectively the 13 parcels acquired add up to approximately 729 acres. In addition to the typical acquisitions, i.e., Willing Seller, Grant, and Habitat Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS), 12 parcels have been acquired through the tax sale process adding an additional approximately 402 acres. Staff also completed two donations, adding approximately 38 acres. In summary, since RCTC became managing agency for RCA, it has added a total of 1,169 acres to the reserve.

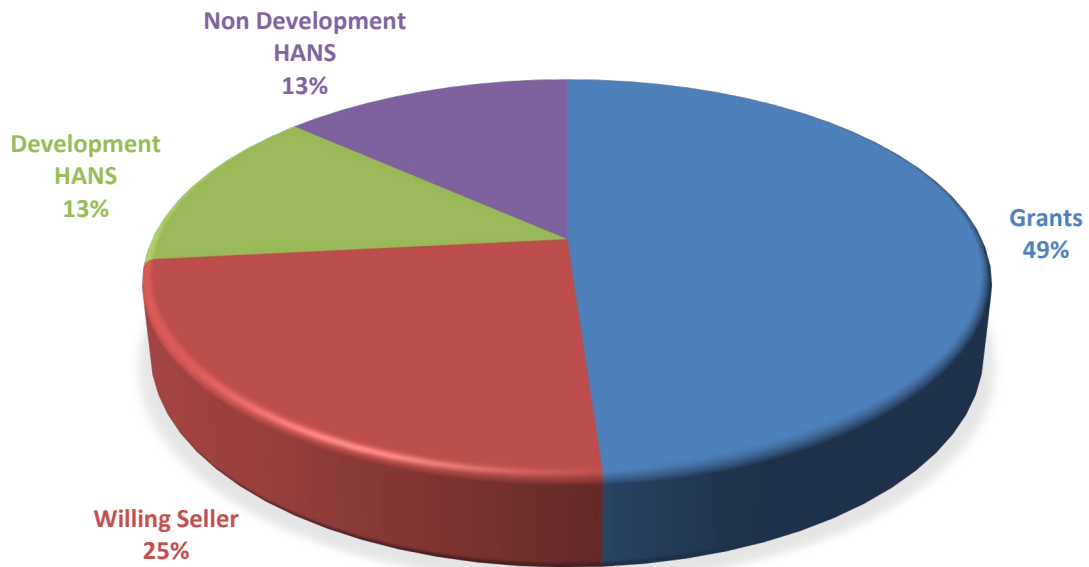
For comparison purposes, in the 2020 calendar year, 16 parcels closed escrow, adding approximately 646 acres. In addition, four donations were completed, adding approximately 47 acres. In summary, RCA added a total of 693 acres to the reserve in 2020.

The first attachment provides individual property details by type including location, owner representative, and acreage for active parcels as of August 31, 2021. The parcels are listed by the proposed close escrow date, if applicable.

The second attachment provides a summary of the closed escrows the month of August 2021.

Chart 1 illustrates the active parcels by type of acquisition: grant-funded, development HANS, non-development HANS, and willing seller.

Chart 1: Active Parcels by Type



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information item. There is no fiscal impact.

Attachment:

- 1) Status of Right of Way Acquisitions as of August 31, 2021
- 2) Closed escrows for August 2021

Approved by the Executive Committee on September 15, 2021

In Favor: 6 Abstain: 0 No: 0

**Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Status of Acquisitions
As of August 31, 2021**

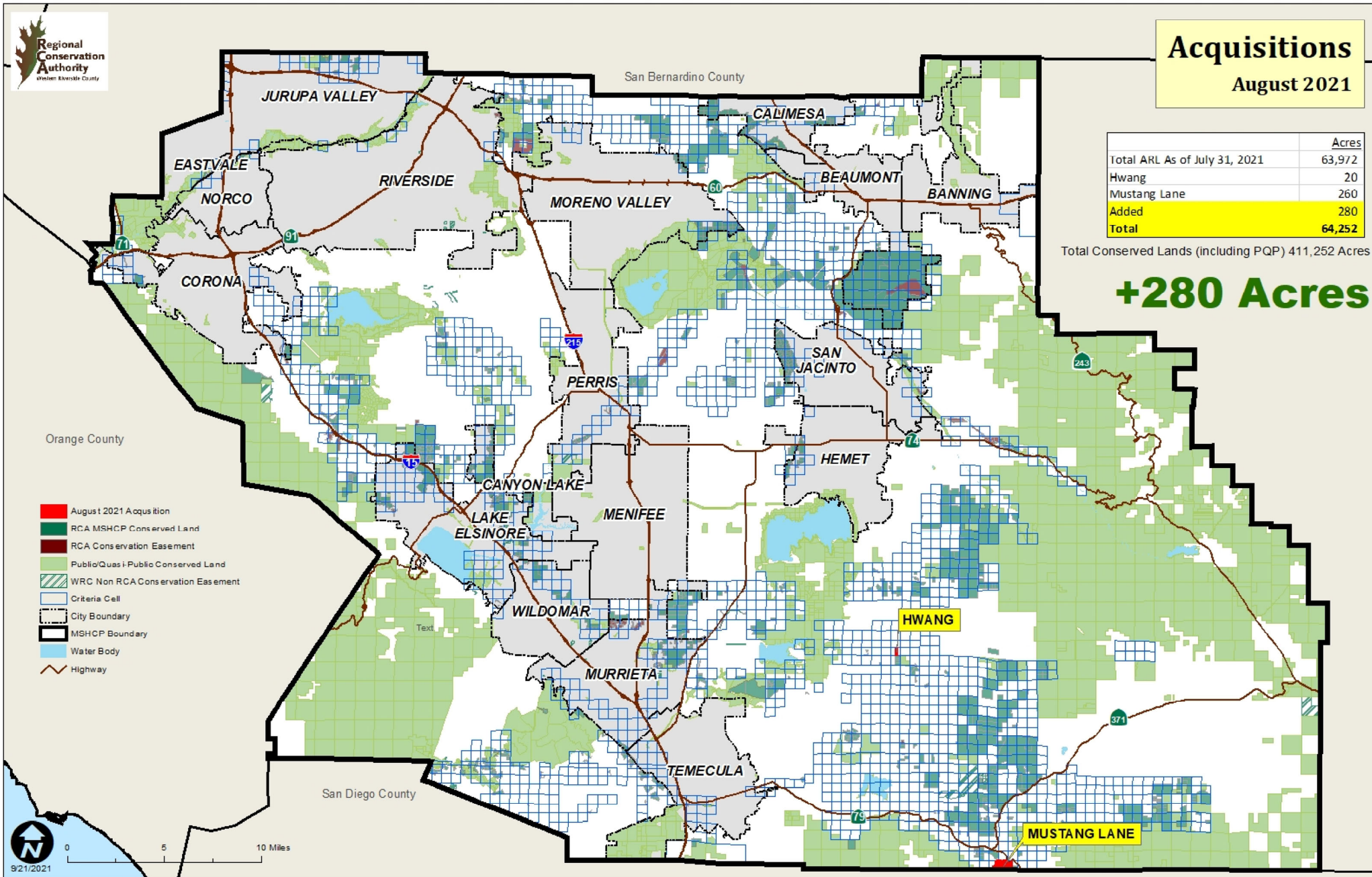
Project Number	Location	Supervisorial District	Owner Representative	Acreage
R22462	Tenaja	District 1	Chris Basilevac	19.90 acres
R22467	Murrieta	District 1	Phil Percival	56.92 acres
R22469	Murrieta	District 1	Chris Basilevac	20.37 acres
R22471	Tenaja	District 1	Chris Basilevac	20.18 acres
R22470	Tenaja	District 1	Chris Basilevac	51.76 acres
R22171	Hemet	District 3	Dan Hollingsworth	65.18 acres
R22492	Hemet	District 3	N/A	9.74 acres
R22493	Winchester	District 3	N/A	4.36 acres
R22309	Hemet	District 3	Ed Sauls	40.39 acres
R22453	Murrieta	District 1	N/A	4.01 acres
R22494	Murrieta	District 3	N/A	35.08 acres
R22497*	Hemet	District 3	Barry Lall	10.04 acres
R22435	Jurupa Valley	District 2	Glen Williams	25.48 acres
R22434	Jurupa Valley	District 2	Glen Williams	31.70 acres
R22479	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	3.34 acres
R22480	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	3.34 acres
R22481	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	12.55 acres
R22482	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	84.54 acres
R22483	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	94.42 acres
R22484	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	50.34 acres
R22486	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	20 acres
R22487	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	55.3 acres

Development HANS				
R22475	Sage	District 3	Garret Sauls	20.4 acres
R22476	Temescal Valley	District 1	Garret Sauls	17.23 acres
R22474	Hemet	District 3	Garret Sauls	20.72 acres
R22478	Temecula	District 3	Ron Schreiber	30.07 acres
R22424	Temescal Canyon	District 1	Ed Sauls	420.78 acres
R22217	Sage	District 3	N/A	29.41 acres

Non-Development HANS				
R22444	Sage	District 3	Phil McElhinney/Garret Sauls	20.20 acres
R22440	Sage	District 3	John Culton/Garret Sauls	322.00 acres
R22407	Nuevo	District 5	Ed Sauls	7.92 acres
R22419	Aguanga	District 3	Garret Sauls	80.00 acres
R22409	Murrieta	District 3	Ed Sauls	40.00 acres
R22449	Gavilan Hills	District 1	Ed Sauls	197.55 acres

Willing Seller				
R22472	Temecula	District 3	Garret Sauls	22.88 acres
R22433	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Glen Williams	239.87 acres
R22466	Juniper Flats	District 5	N/A	9.40 acres
R22421	Calimesa	District 5	Jason Bennecke	306.93 acres
R22489	Temecula	District 1	Brian Bush	16.37 acres
R22490	Lakeview	District 5	Steve Letterly	85 acres
R22491	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Ed Sauls	129.87 acres
R22495	Temescal Canyon	District 1	N/A	80.00 acres
R22496*	Murrieta	District 3	Sam Yoo	20.00 acres
R22485	Moreno Valley	District 5	Steve Hobbs	744.67 acres
R22498*	Norco	District 2	N/A	Pending

* denotes a new acquisition project during August 2021



AGENDA ITEM 7

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	October 4, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Joint Project Review Status Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive and file the Joint Project Review (JPR) monthly status report as of August 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Executive Committee requested that a monthly report of the status of JPRs and other Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) compliance processes be provided. This is the first monthly report, and modifications can be made as is deemed necessary.

The RCA processes Habitat Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) analyses in the form of JPRs as well as Participating Special Entity (PSE) applications and Criteria Refinements. The included attachment summarizes each type of MSHCP compliance review the RCA has performed since RCTC became the managing agency on January 1, 2021.

Through August 31, 2021, staff has completed 19 JPRs (all Development HANS) with no PSEs or Criteria Refinements completed to date. We are in the process of reviewing 15 JPRs (all Development HANS), two PSE amendments, and one Criteria Refinement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information item. There is no fiscal impact.

Attachment: RCA MSHCP Compliance Project Processing from January 1 thru August 31, 2021

RCA MSHCP Compliance Project Processing from January 1 thru August 31, 2021

Actively in Process	Completed in 2021
DEVELOPMENT HANS¹	
PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lake Elsinore Lake Street ➤ County Waste Pedley Landfill ➤ Murrieta Creek Bridge 	PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Perris SJR Trail Project ✓ Temecula Pala Park ✓ RCTC SART Trail Project ✓ County Transportation Gilman Springs Road ✓ French Valley Recycling Center Amendment
PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perris – 1 ➤ Lake Elsinore – 3 ➤ County – 6 ➤ Temecula - 2 	PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ County – 11 ✓ Temecula – 1 ✓ Lake Elsinore - 1 ✓ Murrieta - 1
NON-DEVELOPMENT HANS²	
None to date in 2021	None to date in 2021
PARTICIPATING SPECIAL ENTITY	
PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lockheed Martin Site 1 – Potrero Remedial Action Amendment ➤ Lockheed Martin Site 2 – Laborde Remedial Action Amendment 	PRIVATE PROJECTS None to date in 2021
CRITERIA REFINEMENTS³	
PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Beaumont Point Specific Plan 	PRIVATE PROJECTS None to date in 2021

¹ A project is proposed on the property

² No project is proposed on the property and these HANS involve only private entities

³ Triggered when a proposed project wants to develop on lands that are described to go into the MSHCP reserve

AGENDA ITEM 8

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE:	October 4, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	State and Federal Grants Update

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RCA is actively administering one state and one federal grant to acquire Additional Reserve Lands (ARL) as part of its responsibilities under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

Grant	Amount	Awarding Agency	Expiration
FY 2017 Endangered Species Act Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program	\$2 million*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	11/30/2021
Jurupa Mountains Conservation	\$14.7 million	California Natural Resources Agency	3/1/2022

*Federal portion (the State provides a 35% match)

Each of the two grants is a simultaneous opportunity and challenge. RCA staff has prioritized successful completion of each grant before the expiration date. These grants come with specific requirements, approval processes, and timelines. Success requires coordination with state and federal agencies, property owners, appraisers, and all functions within RCA. Doing so increases the likelihood of ultimate success of the MSHCP.

This staff report is an update to the Executive Committee on the status of both grants as well as efforts to prepare for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Section 6 notice of funding availability, which is anticipated at any time. This update respects that some details involve real property negotiations that are the subject of previous and future Closed Session items for the RCA Board.

RCA also seeks research grant funds from time to time to help fulfill its responsibilities to monitor species covered under the MSHCP. On September 28, 2021, RCA was notified that it was awarded \$15,036, by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to study soils that are an

important part of the habitat for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, a federally endangered species covered by the MSHCP. A resolution to accept the grant funds is proposed for the Board of Directors' consideration on the following agenda item.

In addition to receiving the grant for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, RCA was successful in partnering on two other CDFW grants announced on September 28th. The San Diego Natural History Museum was awarded \$114,583, to conduct research on burrowing owl conservation in western Riverside County. Researchers at UC Davis received \$98,309, to study the DNA of mountain lions to estimate their population in the Santa Ana Mountains.

RCA staff is pleased with the success of these three grants which will advance the success of the MSHCP.

Jurupa Mountains Conservation

Proceeding from a list of 31 property ownerships and a total of 70 parcels that are eligible for acquisition by RCA in the Jurupa Mountains area, RCA staff and consultants reinitiated outreach to property owners in January 2021. After several outreach attempts, a majority of ownerships were either not interested or did not respond to contact letters mailed or voicemails. However, five property ownerships in the Jurupa Mountains area have expressed an interest in selling their property to RCA. Additionally, the Jurupa Area Recreation & Park District (JARPD) is interested in selling two of its parcels to RCA. Appraisals for the JARPD and the five private property ownerships are underway.

In the meantime, RCA is preparing to close escrow in September 2021 on two properties in the Jurupa Mountains that were previously approved for purchase by the RCA Board in October 2020. These two acquisitions account for 57 acres and will expend \$320,000 of grant funds. They will be the first two properties to close under the Jurupa Mountains Conservation grant.

While staff strives to complete as many acquisitions in the Jurupa Mountains area as possible prior to the expiration of the grant funds on March 1, 2022, limited interest from property owners makes it nearly certain that RCA will be unable to expend all of the grant funds. Even if all eligible ownerships were to sell their properties to RCA, fair market property values on the Jurupa Mountain are such that all \$14.7 million could not be expended.

The Legislative Affairs team continues to advocate for extension of the grant expiration date as well as for the expansion of the eligible acquisition boundary beyond the Jurupa Mountains area to ensure that all grant funds secured by Assemblymember Cervantes in 2019 are fully expended for conservation within the MSHCP region.

Executive Director Anne Mayer, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director Aaron Hake, and the Legislative Affairs team met with Assemblymember Cervantes on May 18, 2021, to ask that she insert an extension of the deadline and an expansion of the eligible geography for acquisition into the FY 2021-22 State Budget. On June 22, 2021, the Legislative Affairs team was

informed that Assemblymember Cervantes expressed openness to exploring options, subject to input from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), who administers the grant.

Accordingly, RCA staff met with the CNRA Grants Administrator on August 11, 2021, and received confirmation that RCA may initiate an amendment to the grant agreement to extend the grant performance period to June 30, 2023. Staff also learned that CNRA has an administrative process to consider the expansion of grant acquisition boundaries. Such an expansion of the grant boundaries requires a written request from Assemblymember Cervantes to CNRA. The Legislative Affairs team has requested that Assemblymember Cervantes take this step to assist RCA in fully expending the \$14.7 million for conservation in the MSHCP area. Staff is awaiting a response from the Assemblymember's office as of the writing of this staff report. Staff will keep the Board apprised of progress.

Extension and Completion of FY 2017 Section 6 Grant

In May 2021, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved a six-month extension of RCA's FY 2017 Section 6 grant. This six-month extension is enabling RCA to collaborate with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete the acquisition of five properties which will expend nearly all the grant funds. The FY 2017 grant focuses on properties in southwest Riverside County that are important for mountain lion movement in the Santa Ana Mountains.

Two of the properties were approved at the August 26, 2021, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) meeting and three properties are scheduled for a vote by the WCB at its November meeting. Achieving these approvals required extensive collaboration with WCB and Department of General Services (DGS). As RCA encountered on a property earlier this year for the FY 2019 Section 6 grant, one of the appraisals for an FY 2017 grant property was rejected by DGS. Fortunately, staff from all agencies involved were able to reach resolution in time to keep that property on-track for the WCB meeting in November. RCA will continue to engage with WCB and DGS on the appraisal review and approval process to successfully perform on federal grants.

Staff is grateful to TNC, WCB, DGS, and the appraisers who have worked diligently to make the FY 2017 Section 6 grant a success.

Preparation For FY 2022 Section 6 Grant

Based on recent experiences with our FY 2017 and FY 2019 Section 6 grants, staff developed a proactive strategy in June 2021 to identify candidate properties for acquisition for the upcoming FY 2022 Section 6 grant solicitation. The Reserve Management and Monitoring team, in consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies, identified biologically important areas to the MSHCP that would compete well for limited grant funds. RCA promptly began outreach to property owners in those areas and was successful in identifying seven potential properties for RCA's FY 2022 federal grant application. Six of the seven properties are currently in the appraisal stage. To increase likelihood of ultimately getting these appraisals approved by DGS and through WCB, RCA procured the services of an experienced appraiser with a successful track record of

DGS approvals. Staff will begin preparing an application for funding as soon as information is available from USFWS.

Continuous Improvement

Staff continues to identify opportunities for improvement of the grant process internally and with RCA's state and federal partners. Conversations on potential improvements with state and federal agency staff, appraisers under contract with RCA, and fellow Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) continue in the background simultaneous to our efforts to perform on current grants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of these grant funds has already been accounted for in the adopted RCA FY 2022 Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 9

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	October 4, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management/Monitoring Manager
THROUGH:	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-015 Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of Grant Funds for Evaluating Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>) Hostplant Morphological Characters Associated with Different Soil Types

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2021-015, “*Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of Grant Funds for Evaluating Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Euphydryas editha quino; QCB) Hostplant Morphological Characters Associated with Different Soil Types Predominant in the Vicinity of a QCB Metapopulation in Southwestern Riverside County, with Relevance to QCB Population Ecology and Conservation*”.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is an approved Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) by the State of California. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through the NCCP Local Assistance Grant (LAG) program, provides funding for high priority tasks needed to implement approved NCCPs. The RCA applied for and, on September 28, 2021, was awarded a grant that would benefit QCB, a federally endangered butterfly and a covered species under the MSHCP. Based on annual monitoring trends since inception of the MSHCP, QCB populations have contracted and are no longer present in areas they were once reliably detected (e.g., Warm Springs Creek).

The MSHCP requires an adaptive management program that will identify alternative strategies for meeting the species goals and objectives set forth in the MSHCP. Understanding whether certain soils that support the host plant for longer periods of time each spring can have adaptive management applications such as focused restoration and/or translocation of the species as well as land acquisition prioritization. If soil preference is demonstrated by the study, the RCA will utilize U.S. Geologic Services soil survey mapping to focus management actions where the preferred soil is located to expand and bolster existing QCB populations as a first measure to addressing the decline of the species in southwestern Riverside County.

The project cost is \$20,325, and LAG funding was requested in the amount of \$15,036. The grant requires an RCA in-kind contribution of \$5,289, consisting of labor costs, materials, and supplies. The RCA will administer the grant with biological research consultants performing the field study and drafting the results. Both consultants will be recognized experts on QCB and have many publications on the species and its ecology and have over the years worked with the species through the University of California, Riverside. The field work is anticipated to commence in January 2021, and grant work completed by March 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A portion of the RCA in-kind contribution of \$5,289, primarily related to staff costs is included in the approved FY 2021/22 Budget under the Riverside County Transportation Commission contract costs. Such costs are funded by tipping fees. Grant revenues and associated costs are not included in the current fiscal year budget.

Financial Information					
In Fiscal Year Budget:	No N/A	Year:	FY 2021/22 FY 2022/23+	Amount:	\$7,518 \$7,518
Source of Funds:	LAG Grant		Budget Adjustment:		Yes N/A
GL/Project Accounting No.:	51630-935320-751680 51630-935320-527980		Grant revenues Contracts		
Fiscal Procedures Approved:				Date:	

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution No. 2021-015, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of Grant Funds for Evaluating Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Euphydryas editha quino; QCB) Hostplant Morphological Characters Associated with Different Soil Types Predominant in the Vicinity of a QCB Metapopulation in Southwestern Riverside County, with Relevance to QCB Population Ecology and Conservation”*
- 2) Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Adjustment

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-015

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
EVALUATING QUINO CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY (*Euphydryas editha quino*;
QCB) HOSTPLANT MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS ASSOCIATED WITH
DIFFERENT SOIL TYPES PREDOMINANT IN THE VICINITY OF A QCB
METAPOPOPULATION IN SOUTHWESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, WITH
RELEVANCE TO QCB POPULATION ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS, certain local assistance grant funds are made available annually on a competitive basis by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program for highest priority implementation tasks; and

WHEREAS, the grants are awarded pursuant to guidelines established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for determination of project eligibility for funds; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife require the Grantee to certify by resolution the approval to apply for, and accept grant funds and provide authorization to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement high priority activities related to the NCCP program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority ratifies the filing of an application for local assistance for the above project in the amount of \$20,325.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors appoints the Executive Director as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority held the 4th of October, 2021.

By: _____
Natasha Johnson, Chair
Western Riverside County
Regional Conservation Authority

ATTEST:

By: _____
Lisa Mobley, Clerk
Western Riverside County
Regional Conservation Authority



DATE	October 4, 2021
TO	Auditor-Controller
FROM	Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager
SUBJECT	FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT (FUND 51630)

Background:

On October 4, 2021, the RCA Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2022 budget adjustment contained herein.

Requested Action:

That the Auditor-Controller make the following budget adjustment:

RCA Reserve Management (935300)			
<u>Increase Appropriations</u>			
527980	Contracts		<u>\$7,518</u>
		Total Increase in Appropriations	<u>\$7,518</u>
 <u>Increase Estimated Revenues</u>			
751680	CA-Grant Revenue		<u>\$7,518</u>
		Total Increase in Estimated Revenues	<u>\$7,518</u>

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
 Natasha Johnson, Chair
 RCA Board of Directors

AGENDA ITEM 10

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	October 4, 2021
TO:	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
FROM:	Executive Committee Tyler Madary, Senior Management Analyst, Legislative Affairs
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

While the Legislature passed the FY 2021-22 Budget by the constitutionally required deadline of June 15, 2021, this year they forwent their bicameral Budget Conference and instead passed a budget that includes all items in which the Senate and Assembly agree and are continuing negotiations for the remainder of unresolved budget items. The budget includes the following provisions of interest:

- Makes permanent 18 Department of Fish and Wildlife positions and allocates \$3.8 million in one-time General Funds for the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative, with reporting requirements;
- Funds \$65 million in one-time General Funds to the Wildlife Conservation Board for local assistance for drought-related purposes, of which \$12.5 million is allocated for the removal of Ringe Dam in Malibu Creek State Park to preserve the federally endangered southern steelhead trout; and
- Appropriates \$2.75 million in one-time General Funds to the Wildlife Conservation Board for wildlife and fish passage.

The Legislature and Governor continue to negotiate programmatic funding levels within the following climate investments:

- Wildfire Prevention & Resilience: \$258 million from the General Fund, plus additional special funds in 2021-2022, plus \$500 million from the General Fund in 2022-2023;
- Agriculture Budget Plan: \$200 million in General Funds, plus special funds;
- Circular Economy: \$65 million from the General Fund in 2021-2022;

- Water and Drought Resilience: \$730,700,000 in General Funds in 2021-2022;
- Climate Resilience: \$3.7 billion over three years, with \$440 million from the General Fund in 2021-2022; and
- Cap-and-Trade Spending Plan: \$720 million.

Of particular interest to RCA is the allocation of \$3.7 billion in funding over three years for the Climate Resilience Package, in which RCA continues to advocate for funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for habitat conservation. It is important to note that no budget may obligate the general fund spending of future fiscal years, so the \$3.7 billion figure should be viewed as advisory. The budget allocates \$440 million in funding to the as-yet-unspecified Climate Resilience Package for FY 2021-22, as of the writing of this staff report.

As a result of these one-time investments planned for wildfire prevention and climate resilience made possible by the \$85 billion surplus, legislative leadership determined to table SB 45 (Portantino) and AB 1500 (E. Garcia), the wildfire prevention and climate resilience bond proposals. The RCA supported these bills, and staff strongly advocated for dedicated funding to WCB and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP), specifically, in these proposals which are now two-year bills. This decision was disappointing to HCP advocates, who understand that ongoing, rather than one-time funding is vital for the success of state and federal conservation goals.

In preparation of the finalized climate resilience budget trailer bill, RCA and the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (CHCPC) reengaged legislators in an effort to ensure dedicated funding to WCB for habitat conservation be allocated. This effort was all the more critical, since the proposed bond measures were tabled. On August 23, 2021, RCA Chair Natasha Johnson sent letters to each member of the western Riverside County legislative delegation, with copies to other legislators who were expected to be involved in the final negotiations of the Climate Resilience Package. Given the uncharacteristically dynamic budget process this year, RCA left its request of \$500 million in funding to the WCB unchanged.

The attached letter to Senator Roth is identical to the others sent to RCA's representatives. Executive Director Anne Mayer sent a letter to Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, a regional advocate for climate resilience and the author of AB 1500 seeking his support for WCB funding. Additionally, the CHCPC signed on to a broad coalition letter to the Governor, Senate Pro Tem, and Assembly Speaker advocating for a range of conservation investments, including \$500 million for WCB.

As of the writing of this report, the Legislature has not yet finalized the trailer bill and the Legislative Affairs team will continue to monitor the progress of the Climate Resiliency Package, and advocate for programs that will benefit RCA.

Federal Update

Policy committees in the House and Senate have been working for several months on infrastructure reauthorization legislation. In July, the House passed the Invest in America

(INVEST) Act which included an amendment to establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of Senators continued to negotiate an infrastructure package directly with President Biden and White House officials and ultimately amended the House-passed INVEST Act to become the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The IIJA makes broader but smaller investments in transportation, water, and broadband infrastructure. However, the language to establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge was not included in the amended bill.

The House is expected to take up the IIJA no later than September 27, as well as pass the budget reconciliation resolution, which is being drafted concurrently by the House and Senate to incorporate other elements of President Biden's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

Community Project Funding

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior ultimately rejected Representative Takano's Community Project Funding (CPF) request made on behalf of RCA, for \$3 million in funding for the Kelvar and Wolfskill Acquisition Project. However, Senators Feinstein and Padilla each submitted a funding request to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior for consideration on behalf of RCA.

Senator Padilla submitted RCA's full requested amount of \$4.2 million for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire the Wolfskill property within the MSHCP. Senator Feinstein opted to request \$3 million for the same Wolfskill Acquisition Project.

Staff anticipate that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior will begin the mark-up process to draft their appropriations bill to fund Department of Interior programs in September. While there are still several more steps for RCA's funding request to be approved, it is unlikely that both Senators' funding requests will be granted. The Legislative Affairs team stands ready to advocate for the Congressionally Directed Spending requests and provide additional information if requested by subcommittee staff.

Wildlife Refuge Bill

The legislative affairs team has provided information to Senator Feinstein's office to ensure bicameral support for establishing a refuge in western Riverside County. An important part of the work underway is ensuring that Senator Feinstein's bill language is consistent with Representative Calvert's Western Riverside Wildlife Refuge bill. While Representative Calvert's language to establish the Western Riverside Wildlife Refuge was amended out of the INVEST Act, his standalone bill, H.R. 972, continues to advance through the committee process in the House.

The Legislative Affairs team will continue to work with Senator Feinstein's staff throughout the drafting of her bill and also advocate for H.R. 972.

Attachments:

- 1) State and Federal Update Legislative Matrix
- 2) Chair Johnson Letter to Senator Roth
- 3) Executive Director Letter to Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
- 4) Coalition Letter Supporting Climate Package Funding to Governor, Pro Tem, and Speaker

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY POSITIONS ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION – SEPTEMBER 2021

Legislation/ Author	Description	Bill Status	Position	Date of Board Adoption
SB 45 (Portantino)	Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022. This bill would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,595,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.	Ordered to inactive file on request of Senator Portantino June 1, 2021	<i>Support, if amended</i> <i>(based on platform)</i>	April 8, 2021
AB 1500 (Garcia)	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022. This bill, which if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,955,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.	Re-referred to Assembly Rules Committee May 20, 2021	<i>Support, if amended</i> <i>(based on platform)</i>	March 30, 2021
H.R. 972 (Calvert)	A bill to establish the Western Riverside County Wildlife Refuge. This legislation creates the federal government's framework to meet its obligations under the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Implementing agreement.	Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources July 14, 2021	<i>Support</i>	April 5, 2021



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August 23, 2021

The Honorable Richard Roth
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Western Riverside Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), I am writing to request increased funding to the California Natural Resources Agency's Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). With an unexpected budget surplus and California leading the national effort to conserve land and protect habitat, now is the time to support programs with a proven record of achieving these goals.

During the May legislative budget discussion, the Senate budget proposal identified \$500 million for WCB for fish and wildlife protection as part of the Climate Resilience Package. RCA supported this level of funding to WCB for inclusion in the proposed wildfire and climate resiliency bonds, AB 1500 Garcia and SB 45 Portantino. Additionally, the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition, of which RCA is a member, submitted letters of support to the Governor, Pro Tem, and Speaker for the Senate proposal.

While this proposal and others were not specified in the budget bill, AB 128 (Ting), nor the subsequent budget bill, AB 161 (Ting), the RCA continues to support the inclusion of increased WCB funding in the budget trailer bill that will ultimately address climate resilience. Increased funding to WCB is vital for continued efforts in western Riverside County and across the state to acquire land for habitat protection.

The RCA manages the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to establish a 500,000-acre habitat reserve to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats to protect 146 species in our region. As one of the nation's largest habitat conservation plans, the MSHCP strengthens the sustainability and quality of life in Western Riverside County by addressing the need to protect the area's natural habitat while improving the region's infrastructure. The WCB is a critical partner for the success of achieving the MSHCP goals.

Including the Senate's proposed \$500 million increase for the WCB will infuse much-needed resources for Habitat Conservation Plans across California, which, like the MSHCP, are actively acquiring land that will be preserved not only for endangered habitats and species but ensures our communities have access to well over two million acres of open space that will be protected for future generations.

The Honorable Richard Roth
August 23, 2021
Page 2

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director at (951) 787-7141.

Sincerely,



Natasha Johnson
Chair

CC: John Donnelly, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board
Senator Henry Stern, Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
Senator Bob Wieckowski, Chair Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
Legislative Delegation Members
California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition



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

August 26, 2021

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol, Room 4140
 Sacramento, California 94249-0056

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), thank you for taking the time to meet with us and representatives of the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (CHCPC) on March 8, 2021, regarding our request to increase funding to Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) programs through the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in your proposed bond measure, AB 1500. RCA appreciates your leadership in climate resiliency, as well as your thoughtful engagement regarding how the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and other HCPs and NCCPs across the state may contribute to the success of Executive Order N-82-20.

Today, RCA requests \$500 million in increased funding to the WCB, as you had advocated for in AB 1500. With an unexpected budget surplus and California leading the national effort to conserve land and protect habitat, now is the time to support programs with a proven record of achieving these goals.

During the May legislative budget discussion, the Senate budget proposal identified \$500 million for WCB for fish and wildlife protection and habitat conservation as part of the Climate Resilience Package. RCA supported this level of funding to WCB for inclusion in the proposed wildfire and climate resiliency bonds. Additionally, the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition, of which RCA is a member, submitted letters of support to the Governor, Pro Tem, and Speaker for the Senate proposal.

While this proposal and others were not specified in the budget bill, AB 128 (Ting), nor the subsequent budget bill, AB 161 (Ting), RCA continues to support the inclusion of increased WCB funding in the budget trailer bill that will ultimately address climate resiliency. Increased funding to WCB is vital for continued efforts in Riverside County and across the state to acquire land for habitat protection.

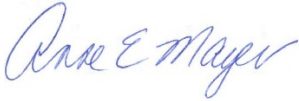
The MSHCP plans for 500,000 acres of habitat reserve to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats to protect 146 species in our region. The MSHCP strengthens the sustainability and quality of life in Riverside County by addressing the need to protect the area's natural habitat while improving the region's infrastructure. As you know, WCB is a critical partner for the success of achieving our plan's goals.

Including the Senate's proposed \$500 million increase for the WCB will help finish the work you started in AB 1500 to infuse much-needed resources for Habitat Conservation Plans across California, which, like the MSHCP, are actively acquiring land that will be preserved not only for endangered habitats and species but will ensure our communities have access to well over two million acres of open space that will be protected for future generations.

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
August 26, 2021
Page 2

We appreciate your championship of our natural resources with climate resiliency, and your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Hake, RCA Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director at (951) 787-7141.

Sincerely,



Anne Mayer
Executive Director

CC: John Donnelly, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board
Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin
California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL CONSERVATION CORPS



Sempervirens Fund



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



bay area urban forest ecosystem council



August 24, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Anthony Rendon
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Skinner, Chair, Budget Committee
Senator Wieckowski, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources, Environmental Protection,
Energy, and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Ting, Chair, Budget Committee
Assembly Member Bloom, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE
CLIMATE RESILIENCE PACKAGE**

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we strongly support a comprehensive climate resilience budget package that includes funding to support nature-based solutions that further California's commitments to addressing the threats posed by climate change and loss of biodiversity.

We appreciate the decision to allocate \$3.675 billion for activities that promote climate resilience. We believe that such an allocation can accommodate many of the requests to protect the public from extreme heat, promote community resilience, and advance climate resiliency capacity building and planning. However, nature-based solutions are also an important part of the state's efforts to combat the impacts of climate change because they protect and restore the very ecosystems that are the safety net for people and biodiversity. Healthy, functioning ecosystems provide clean water, clean air, and cooler and healthier communities; can better accommodate flooding, sea level rise, and fire; and will halt and reverse the current extinction crisis.

As the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report has shown us, we are in a race against climate change. We must move quickly to combat climate change and reinforce our ecosystems to make them more resilient to the changes that we are already experiencing.

Therefore, we strongly urge that the final climate resilience package include the following:

- \$500 million for the Wildlife Conservation Board for statewide habitat conservation and protection of California’s fish and wildlife resources in response to changing climate conditions
- \$750 million for the California State Coastal Conservancy for coastal protection, including dam removal and to address sea level rise.
- \$100 million for the Ocean Protection Council for ocean protection
- \$460 million for the state conservancies for regional climate resilience investment
- \$400 million for urban greening/urban forestry to address and mitigate extreme heat, particularly for disadvantaged communities
- \$240 million for urban rivers and parkways
- \$250 million for lakes, rivers, and streams, including restoration of the Salton Sea

In the face of climate change, we must not overlook the critical role that conserved areas play in capturing and storing fresh water, storing carbon, and protecting biodiversity. Executive Order N-82-20 highlights the critical importance of the state’s commitment to “combat the biodiversity and climate crisis,” including the recognition that California’s “long-term vitality is threatened by the loss of biodiversity - the variety and variability of plant and animal life in our State – and the impacts of climate change.” Indeed, this executive order recognized that California’s “natural and working lands – our forests, rangelands, farms, wetlands, coast, deserts, and urban greenspaces – sustain our economy, support our unique biodiversity, contribute to the global food supply, support outdoor heritage and provide clean water and air.”

California has an unprecedented financial opportunity to address the climate and biodiversity crises, enabling action at the scale essential to provide for a safer present and more sustainable future. The funding request above is intended to direct critical investments into agencies with already existing programs that can deliver dollars quickly and efficiently to projects that are ready to move forward now. Our state is facing serious threats to our wellbeing, and we need to deliver funding quickly to projects that will provide direct benefits to communities as quickly as possible.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to include these investments in protecting our lands and water as part of a final comprehensive budget package that addresses climate change and the impacts we are already experiencing in our communities.

cc: President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Speaker Anthony Rendon
Governor Gavin Newsom
Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot

Sincerely,

Jay Ziegler
Director of External Affairs and Policy
The Nature Conservancy

Jeannette Tuitele Lewis
President/ CEO
Big Sur Land Trust

Sabrina Landreth
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

Paul Mason
V.P. Policy & Incentives
Pacific Forest Trust

Juan Altamirano
Associate Director of Policy
Audubon California

Pam Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Jeff Darlington
Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Doug Campbell
Executive Director
Coastal Ranches Conservancy

Susan Kirks
Chair, Board of Directors
Paula Lane Action Network

Ana Maria Ruiz
General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Belen Bernal

Andrea MacKenzie
General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Mark Stanley
Executive Officer
Watershed Conservation Authority

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Rico Mastrodonato
Government Affairs Director
Trust for Public Land

John Hopkins
Director
California Habitat Conservation Planning
Coalition

Nick Jensen
Conservation Program Director
California Native Plant Society

Susan Kirks
President
Madrone Audubon Society

Lisa Levinson
Campaigns Director
In Defense of Animals

Sarah Newkirk
Executive Director
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Sam Hodder
President and CEO
Save the Redwoods League

Marissa Lanes

Executive Director
Nature for All

Wendy Butts
President
CA Association of Local Conservation
Corps

Marissa Christiansen
Executive Director
Friends of the Los Angeles River

Mari Galloway
California Program Manager
Wildlands Network

Walter T. Moore
President
Peninsula Open Space Trust

Tori Kjer
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Kim Kolpin
Executive Director
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Geary Hund
Executive Director
Mojave Desert Land Trust

Eamon O'Byrne
Executive Director
Sonoma Land Trust

Doug Johnson
Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council

Joe Edmiston
Executive Director
Mountains Recreation and Conservation
Authority

Executive Director
Community Nature Connection

Sara Barth
Executive Director
Sempervirens Fund

John Howell
Chief Executive Officer
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Bert Whitaker
Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Karen Buhr
Executive Director
California Association of Resource
Conservation Districts

Kim Kolpin
Policy Committee Director
California Council of Land Trusts

Nancy Hughes
Executive Director
California Urban Forests Council

Redgie Collins
Legal and Policy Director
California Trout

Fazier Haney
Executive Director
The Wildlands Conservancy

Grant Davis
General Manager
Sonoma Water

Antony L. Firenzi
Director of Strategic Affairs
Placer County Water Agency

Elizabeth Lanham
Chairperson
Bay Area Urban Forest Ecosystem Council

Sara Davis
Chairperson
Central Coast Regional Urban Forests
Council

Nancy Sappington
Chairperson
Inland Urban Forests Council

Emina Darakjy
Chairperson
Los Angeles/Orange County Regional
Urban Forests Council
Street Tree Seminar

Anne Fenkner
Chairperson
Sacramento Valley Regional Urban Forest
Council

Magen Shaw
Council Representative
San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council

Mona Cummings
Chairperson
San Joaquin Valley Urban Forest Council

Susan Price
Executive Director/ President
Northern California Regional Land Trust

John Svahn
Co-Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust

AGENDA ITEM 11

PRESENTATION