



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA**

**TIME: 12:00 p.m.**

**DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

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

**🌀 COMMITTEE MEMBERS 🌀**

Natasha Johnson, City of Lake Elsinore – Chair  
Jeff Hewitt, County of Riverside, District 5 – Vice Chair  
Lesa Sobek, City of Menifee  
Jonathan Ingram, City of Murrieta  
Kevin Bash, City of Norco  
Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto  
Kevin Jeffries, County of Riverside, District 1





# **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

www.wrc-rca.org

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**12:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

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/82420642871>

Call in: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 824 2064 2871

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,82420642871#

For members of the public wishing to submit comment in connection with the Executive Committee Meeting please email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at [lmobley@rctc.org](mailto:lmobley@rctc.org) and your comments will be made part of the official record of the proceedings as long as the comment is received before the end of the meeting's public comment period. 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](http://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 Committee 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 – FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

***Page 1***

**6B. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022**

***Page 8***

***Overview***

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for January 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6C. ACQUISITIONS STATUS REPORT**

***Page 10***

***Overview***

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the acquisitions status report as of January 31, 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6D. JOINT PROJECT REVIEW STATUS REPORT**

***Page 15***

***Overview***

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Joint Project Review (JPR) monthly status report as of February 28, 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**7. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Page 18**

***Overview***

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Quarterly Financial Statements for the six months ended December 31, 2021;
- 2) Approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 budget adjustments in Attachment 2; and
- 3) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**8. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Page 26**

***Overview***

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file an update on state and federal legislative affairs; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**9. 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.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, April 20, 2022.**



# **AGENDA ITEM 6A**

## **MINUTES**





# **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Natasha Johnson at 12:00 p.m., via Zoom Meeting ID: 868 0185 0465, in accordance with AB 361 due to state or local officials recommending measures to promote social distancing.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

#### **Members/Alternates Present**

Jeff Hewitt  
Natasha Johnson  
Lesa Sobek  
Jonathan Ingram  
Crystal Ruiz

#### **Members Absent**

Kevin Jeffries  
Kevin Bash

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Hewitt.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests to speak from the public.

### **5. ADDITIONS / REVISIONS**

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

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

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

#### **6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2022**

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

- 1) Receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for December 2021; and

- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6C. QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT**

- 1) Receive and file the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2021; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6D. ACQUISITION STATUS REPORT**

- 1) Receive and file the acquisitions status report as of December 31, 2021; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6E. JOINT PROJECT REVIEW STATUS REPORT**

- 1) Receive and file the Joint Project Review (JPR) status report as of January 31, 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**6F. QUARTERLY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT METRICS REPORT, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021**

- 1) Receive and file report summarizing the Quarterly Public Engagement Metrics; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**7. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Tyler Madary, Senior Management Analyst, Legislative Affairs, provided an update on the Legislative Affairs team state and federal advocacy. As a part of RCA's legislative strategy, informed by the Platform, as well as guidance of the Board, last week staff submitted a public comment letter and provided oral comments to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation, also known as Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3. Among other items, the Subcommittee received a presentation on the implementation of the \$3.6 billion, three-year Climate Resilience Package, which was included in last year's budget. RCA provided comments on the package's \$768 million set-aside for nature-based solutions to climate change, \$593 million of which is expected to be appropriated this year.

In addition to plugging Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) as shelf-ready tools to implement the State's climate action and conservation goals, RCA requested the Subcommittee's support for increased and ongoing funding in the state budget for land acquisition programs, such as those administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Earlier this week, the Team submitted RCA's comments to the California Natural Resources Agency's (CRNA) draft Pathways to 30 by 30 document. This caps off months of engagement on

RCA's part to make sure that HCPs and NCCPs were included, with an emphasis on the need for the State to fund more land acquisition. Once CNRA finalizes the Pathways to 30 by 30 document, staff expects the agency to provide a more specific budget change proposal for the Climate Resiliency Package, which staff will monitor and weigh in on, accordingly.

Switching to the federal side, the Legislative Affairs team continues to monitor implementation of the bipartisan \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA, to determine how HCPs may be eligible for climate resiliency funding programs in the new law. Earlier this month, RCTC submitted comments in response to a broad Request for Information, or RFI, from the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding how to best implement the IIJA. RCTC's response to this RFI included comments on the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, in which we requested that greater weight and consideration be given to proposed wildlife crossing projects if they are located within HCPs.

Board Member Sobek noted that reading over the report, it stated that the advocacy of RCA to make on-going funding increases a reality is one of the goals. With that goal, would there be any plans for the Chair or Vice Chair to go advocate in Sacramento. Anne Mayer, Executive Director, noted outside of the COVID environment the answer would be yes, of course. Currently Sacramento is mostly operating on a virtual basis and the capital is under construction, so offices are scattered. RCA is actively looking for opportunities in the Assembly or Senate Transportation Committee hearings to volunteer the Chair or Vice Chair for testimony. The same would go for Washington, DC.

Board Member Ruiz thanked Mr. Madary for his report and asked that the information be sent to the Executive Committee members for them to share with their city councils.

- 1) **Receive and file an update on state and federal legislative affairs; and**
- 2) **Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.**

## **8. WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager, provided a presentation on the RCA Annual Report, 2020. The annual report provides a formal opportunity to assess the progress of the Plan and to address potential problems. The annual report, once received and filed by the Board, will be available to all MSHCP Permittees, Wildlife Agencies, and interested public on the RCA website.

In 2020, a total of 981 acres was acquired, donated, or obtained through the local development process. From inception of the Plan thru 2020, RCA had acquired 62,798 acres of Additional Reserve Lands (ARL). The Dawson Creek property that was purchased in 2020 is located south of the Lake Mathews/Estelle Mountain Reserve and east of Temescal Canyon. This was an important acquisition in Rough Step Unit 7 that brought in Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub to help offset the current imbalance in this vegetation community. It also brought in important watershed features that support covered species and drain into Temescal Wash.

Habitat losses are reported to the RCA once a year. Losses are reported when projects go through their final processes at the City or County once the project is shovel ready, removal of habitat can occur. In 2020, 3,510 acres were approved for loss within the MSHCP Plan Area. Approximately 2,733 acres of this was for development outside of Criteria Cells, where additional reserve assembly does not occur. Approximately 777 acres of this was for development inside Criteria Cells where the development was proposed outside of lands needed for additional reserve assembly. As there is much more area outside of cells, it is important for more development/losses to occur outside of the cells than inside the cells. Cumulative habitat losses since adoption of Plan show that 81% of the development is occurring outside of the criteria cells with 19% occurring within the cells.

New lands came into conservation during 2020 in the cities of Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, and Temecula and the County of Riverside. Each jurisdiction has a goal range and as of last year this information is on a public Dashboard on the RCA website that is updated in real time as acquisitions occur. This was an initiative of Chair Johnson.

Losses and gains are evaluated through what the MSHCP calls Rough Step Analysis. The plan area is split into nine rough step units. The RCA takes the acquisitions and the losses data provided by each Permittee (city/county) annually and runs it through the rough step formula. The analysis shows that at the end of 2020, RCA is out of rough step in four units: Rough Step Units 3 and 7 have had too much loss in Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (RAFSS) habitat, a very rare habitat type; Rough Step Unit 5 due to riparian scrub, forest, woodland; and Rough Step Unit 8 due to grasslands.

Being out of rough step calls for action. For Rough Step Unit 3 RCA continues to look for willing sellers who own lands that supports RAFSS. For Rough Step Unit 5 RCA is in escrow on a property that supports 0.57 acre of riparian scrub and continues to look for other willing sellers of properties with this vegetation community to get back into rough step. For Rough Step Unit 7 RCA is working with several entities on acquiring 24.5 acres of RAFSS which would put it back in step. Rough Step Unit 8 grasslands has been out of step since plan inception. However, the RCA is currently working with several property owners and if these lands are acquired, then they would bring in a little over 59 acres of grassland.

Another large part of MSHCP compliance is to manage the ARL. With a staff of 10, RCA reserve managers manage over 43,000 acres with 42,360 acres being RCA-owned lands. The RCA does not manage all ARL. Management is occurring by the feds and state as well as a suite of long-term management entities like the Resource Conservation Districts, Rivers and Lands Conservancy, Center of Natural Lands Management, etc. RCA reserve managers continue to focus on fire abatement, property protection/security; perform initial site inspections of every parcel during acquisition; remove invasive, non-native species and restore natural habitats; coordinate with other reserve managers that oversee non-RCA lands; and perform long-term management of 15 Clean Water Act/Endangered Species Act properties.

Activities performed by RCA's management team include: persuading riders to leave the KB San Jacinto River donation property; removing 100 gallons of illegally discarded used motor oil from the Kisling Enterprises property; removing a large homeless encampment from the Oak Valley Partners property; completing an access closure on the Palmryita Donation property; removing a mountain bike bridge illegally being constructed on the Cornerstone property; and debris removal from an illegal marijuana grow on the Aqua Tibia property.

An eradication program for an invasive plant known as Stinknet began on the alkali playa properties including the Carlsbad property and the Sey property. The progress is slow but working. Also, during 2020, RCA worked in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo conservation group on a translocation project that moved the very rare San Bernardino kangaroo rat (not to be confused with the Stephens' kangaroo rat) from sites proposed for development in San Bernardino County to San Jacinto River Ranchos Meadows at Lone Cone property. Some of the animals were fitted with telemetry collars and movements were tracked to study how successful the translocation effort was. It was met with mixed results but overall, it has been successful. Some stayed, some moved onto other lands, and a few were eaten by predators.

RCA contracts the Santa Ana Watershed Association to perform the monitoring program. With a staff of 15, the program monitors 146 species throughout the MSHCP reserve system that includes both Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) and ARL lands. In 2020, activities included: focused monitoring for American Bittern, Burrowing Owl, Least Bell's Vireo, Mountain Plover, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and even a winter raptor survey for Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon - three species that only occur in the area during migration and winter. Quino checkerspot butterfly and Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly surveys were conducted, these two species are surveyed every year. Rare plant surveys including a focused study on Brandt's phacelia a species of plant that only occurs in one location in the MSHCP reserve, on County Parks properties along the Santa Ana River. The monitoring team is working with researchers in San Diego County on the ecological needs of this species.

The monitoring program also performs monitoring of the Clinton Keith Road overcrossing that was built in support of the Clinton Keith Road Realignment project. The purpose of the overcrossing was to support movement of Quino checkerspot butterfly as well as providing movement habitat across the roadway by the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, a small bird that does not migrate from the area and instead is a low flying species that lives in sage scrub. There are also many other species that have been confirmed using the overcrossing including: several species of butterflies, bobcat, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbit, Audubon's cottontail, California ground squirrel, opossum, domestic dog, kangaroo rats, and 5 species of birds. The year 2020 marks the second year of monitoring that is to continue for a total of five years. This monitoring is supported by the Riverside County Transportation Department.

Major actions taken in 2020 include: 981 acres of ARL acquired within the calendar year, with 62,798 acres of ARL acquired thru 2020; a total of 13,842 acres currently designated as future ARL conservation dedications that will occur from development; and processing 32 JPRs from permittees.

Board Member Sobek thanked Ms. Campbell for a great, informative report.

Chair Johnson asked that the Executive Committee be sent a copy of this presentation.

- 1) **Receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan 2020 Annual Report; and**
- 2) **Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.**

## 9. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Board Member Sobek shared that Menifee has a new police department, and after three years the Chief will be retiring at the end of June, so a recruitment process will be opened.

Chair Johnson shared that former Council Member Daryl Hickman from Lake Elsinore passed away last evening.

Anne Mayer, Executive Director, followed up on three things from the February Board Meeting. The first item to follow-up on, as directed by the Board, is staff starting to evaluate potential options related to a policy for Board consideration for offsite donations in lieu of fees. Staff plans to spend the next month doing some research and coming up with information to have a discussion with the Stakeholders Committee, who will be meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, staff is looking at an issue that was raised by a member of the public related to fee credit considerations related to JPRs. There are concerns that the RCA policy and MSHCP have a time challenge for the development stakeholders. Staff is researching this matter, and it will also be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Stakeholders Committee.

Staff is excited for the first Stakeholders Committee Meeting and has begun reaching out to members. The Stakeholders Committee will be Brown Act Meetings, following all Brown Act requirements. As such, mandatory ethics training will be offered by RCA.

Finally, if it is the pleasure of the Executive Committee, staff could bring an item to the March Board Meeting to change the start time of the Board Meetings. The Executive Committee starts at Noon and the Board Meetings start at 12:30. While it doesn't happen very often, there have been times when RCA is discussing important items and bumps against 2:00 p.m., which is WRCOG's start time. Last month, with very significant conversation and a vote taking place at RCA, several members had to leave to attend the WRCOG Meeting. This also happened during the Nexus Study approval process. One way to prevent this issue would be to move the RCA Board Meetings to Noon, minimizing the potential for conflict.

Board Member Ingram thanked Ms. Mayer for bringing up changing the Board Meeting start time. This is something he would be in support of.

Board Member Ruiz stated she would also be in favor of changing the start time.

Ms. Mayer confirmed the start time change would be on the March Board Agenda for consideration.

Board Member Hewitt wanted to know if changing the Board Meeting time to noon would include lunch. Ms. Mayer noted that both the Executive Committee and Board are still virtual, when it changes, RCA will address the tight schedules the Board Members have without the opportunity to eat lunch.

Chair Johnson shared that today was National Almond and Do a Good Deed for a Grouch Day.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for consideration by the Executive Committee, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, March 16, 2022.**

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Mobley  
Administrative Services Manager/  
Clerk of the Board





# **AGENDA ITEM 6B**



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 16, 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>FROM:</b>	Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Sergio Vidal, Chief Financial Officer
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Fee Collection Report for January 2022

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Fee Collection Report for January 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**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 \$20 million in LDMF collections for Fiscal Year 2021/22. Other fees are contributed by Member Agencies and other jurisdictions for civic and infrastructure projects. RCA budgeted \$559,000 for such contributions in FY 2021/22.

Attached is the LDMF Collection and Civic/Infrastructure Contribution report for January 2022, which reflects combined collections to date of \$8,393,258 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 January 2022



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP LDMF COLLECTION AND CIVIC/INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION REPORT  
JANUARY 2022**

Amounts subject to rounding

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FEE COLLECTIONS									
City/County	Month	REMITTED					EXEMPTIONS & FEE CREDITS		
		Residential Permits	ADUs/ Additions	Commercial Industrial Acres	Amount Remitted	Total FY 22 Year-to-Date	Residential Permits	Commercial Industrial Acres	Amount
City of Banning	December-Pending				\$ -	\$ 16,208			
City of Beaumont	December	86		0.48	149,441	825,217			
City of Calimesa	November	20		1.30	74,277	79,101			
	December-No Activity								
City of Canyon Lake	December-No Activity				-	5,870			
City of Corona	December-No Activity				-	111,210			
City of Eastvale	December-No Activity				-	-			
City of Hemet	December	45			116,958	557,450			
City of Jurupa Valley	December	1			2,935	395,940			
City of Lake Elsinore	December	16			45,498	399,544			
City of Menifee	December-Pending				-	198,803			
City of Moreno Valley	December	19		3.15	79,836	578,259			
City of Murrieta	December	1		1.43	20,069	350,984			
City of Norco	December-Pending					51,640			
City of Perris	November	22		1.01	79,015	609,919			
	December	42		14.57	297,875				
City of Riverside	October	26	5	18.80	227,911	575,961			
	November	212	6		218,360				
	December-Pending				-				
City of San Jacinto	December	11			32,285	156,156			
City of Temecula	November	7			11,012	38,276			
	Roripaugh DA <sup>1</sup>				-		18	32.3	\$ 439,849
	December-Pending				-				
City of Wildomar	August-No Activity				-	449,182			
	September	1			2,935				
	October	189		11.00	250,867				
	November-No Activity				-				
	December	1		24.53	189,510				
County of Riverside	January	9	3	1.31	59,414	2,406,080			
	<b>Total LDMF Collections</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>77.58</b>	<b>\$ 1,858,199</b>	<b>\$ 7,805,801</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32.30</b>	<b>\$ 439,849</b>

CIVIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS			
			<b>Total FY 22 Year-to-Date</b>
			\$ -
Prior Civic and Infrastructure contributions from Member Agencies			587,457
		<b>Total Civic/Infrastructure Contributions</b>	<b>\$ - \$ 587,457</b>

**TOTAL JANUARY 2022 \$ 1,858,199 \$ 8,393,258**

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



# **AGENDA ITEM 6C**





**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 16, 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>FROM:</b>	Angela Ferreira, Senior Management Analyst Monica Tlaxcala, Acting Right of Way Manager
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Acquisitions Status Report

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the acquisitions status report as of January 31, 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

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

In the first month of the new 2022 calendar year, two parcels have been acquired, adding approximately 345 acres to the reserve. As of January 31, 2022, staff is managing 47 active parcels.

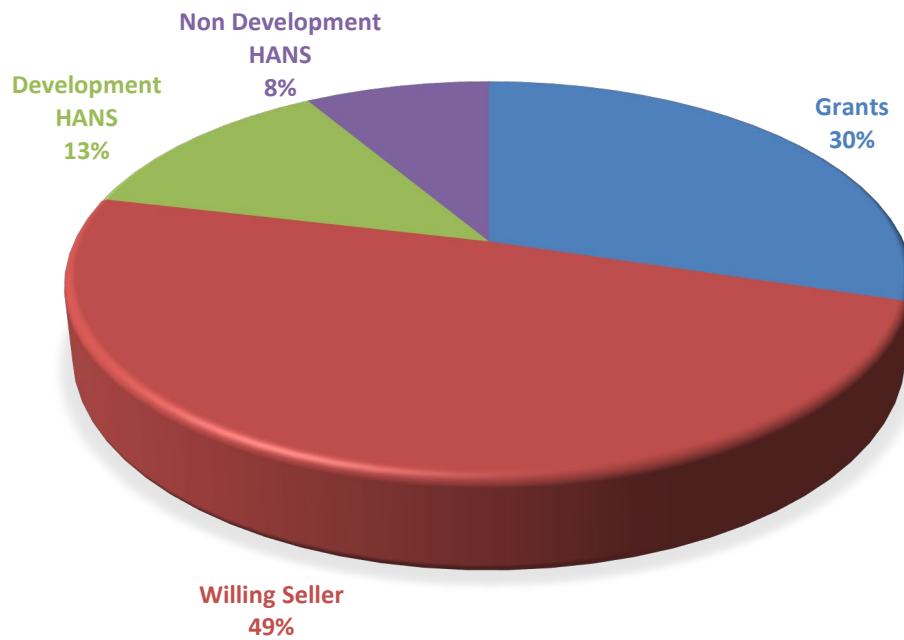
For comparison purposes, in the 2020 calendar year, 16 parcels closed escrow adding approximately 646 acres, and four donations were processed, adding approximately 47 acres. In the 2021 calendar year, 18 parcels closed escrow, adding approximately 891 acres, 12 parcels were acquired through the tax sale process, adding approximately 402 acres, and two donations were processed, adding approximately 38 acres. In summary, a total of 693 acres were added to the reserve in 2020 and 1,331 acres were added in 2021.

The first attachment provides individual property details by type including location, owner representative, and acreage for active parcels as of January 31, 2022. The parcels are listed by the proposed close escrow date, if applicable.

The second attachment provides a summary of the closed escrows for the month of January 2022.

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 item is for informational purposes only. There is no fiscal impact.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Status of Right of Way Acquisitions as of January 31, 2022
- 2) Closed Escrows for January 2022

**Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority  
Status of Acquisitions  
As of January 31, 2022**

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Supervisorial District</b>	<b>Owner Representative</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
<b>Grants</b>				
R22492	Hemet	District 3	N/A	9.74 acres
R22309	Hemet	District 3	Ed Sauls	63.55 acres
R22494	Murrieta	District 3	N/A	31.06 acres
R22497	Hemet	District 3	Barry Lall	10.04 acres
R22505	Barth	District 1	Dave Asmus	19.92 acres
R22171	Hemet	District 3	Dan Hollingsworth/Ed Sauls	65.18 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
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
R22486	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	20 acres
R22487	Jurupa Valley	District 2	N/A	55.3 acres

<b>Development HANS</b>				
R22474	Hemet	District 3	Garret Sauls	20.72 acres
R22502	Hemet	District 3	N/A	40.52 acres
R22476	Corona	District 1	Garret Sauls	17.23 acres
R22424	Temescal Canyon	District 1	Ed Sauls	475.20 acres
R22217	Sage	District 3	N/A	21.11 acres
R22503	Corona	District 1	Chad Miller	24.80 acres

<b>Non-Development HANS</b>				
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
R22421	Calimesa	District 5	Jason Bennecke	306.93 acres
R22489	Temecula	District 1	Brian Bush	122.78 acres
R22453	Murrieta	District 3	N/A	4.02 acres
R22433	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Ecosystem Investment Partner	239.87 acres
R22491	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Ed Sauls	129.87 acres
R22495	Corona	District 1	N/A	80.00 acres
R22496	Murrieta	District 3	Sam Yoo	20.00 acres
R22500	Temecula	District 3	Katherine Jankowski	20.02 acres
R22501	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Rudolph Lacayo	5 acres
R22504	Corona	District 1	N/A	17.98 acres
R22507	Perris	District 1	Larry Robillard	160 acres
R22513	Nuevo	District 5	Garret Sauls	217 acres
R22512	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Garret Sauls	30 acres
R22510	Murrieta	District 3	Ed Sauls	8.06 acres
R22509	Hemet	District 3	Joe Valdez	75.56 acres
R22511	Lake Elsinore	District 1	Ecosystem Investment Partner	44.70 acres
R22514	Wildomar	District 1	Ed Sauls	19.25 acres
R22515	Sage	District 3	George Haines	4.97 acres
R22516	Murrieta	District 1	N/A	8.54 acres
R22518	Sage	District 3	N/A	14 acres
R22517	Menifee	District 3	Ed Sauls	163 acres
R22446	Beaumont	District 5	County of Riverside	150 acres



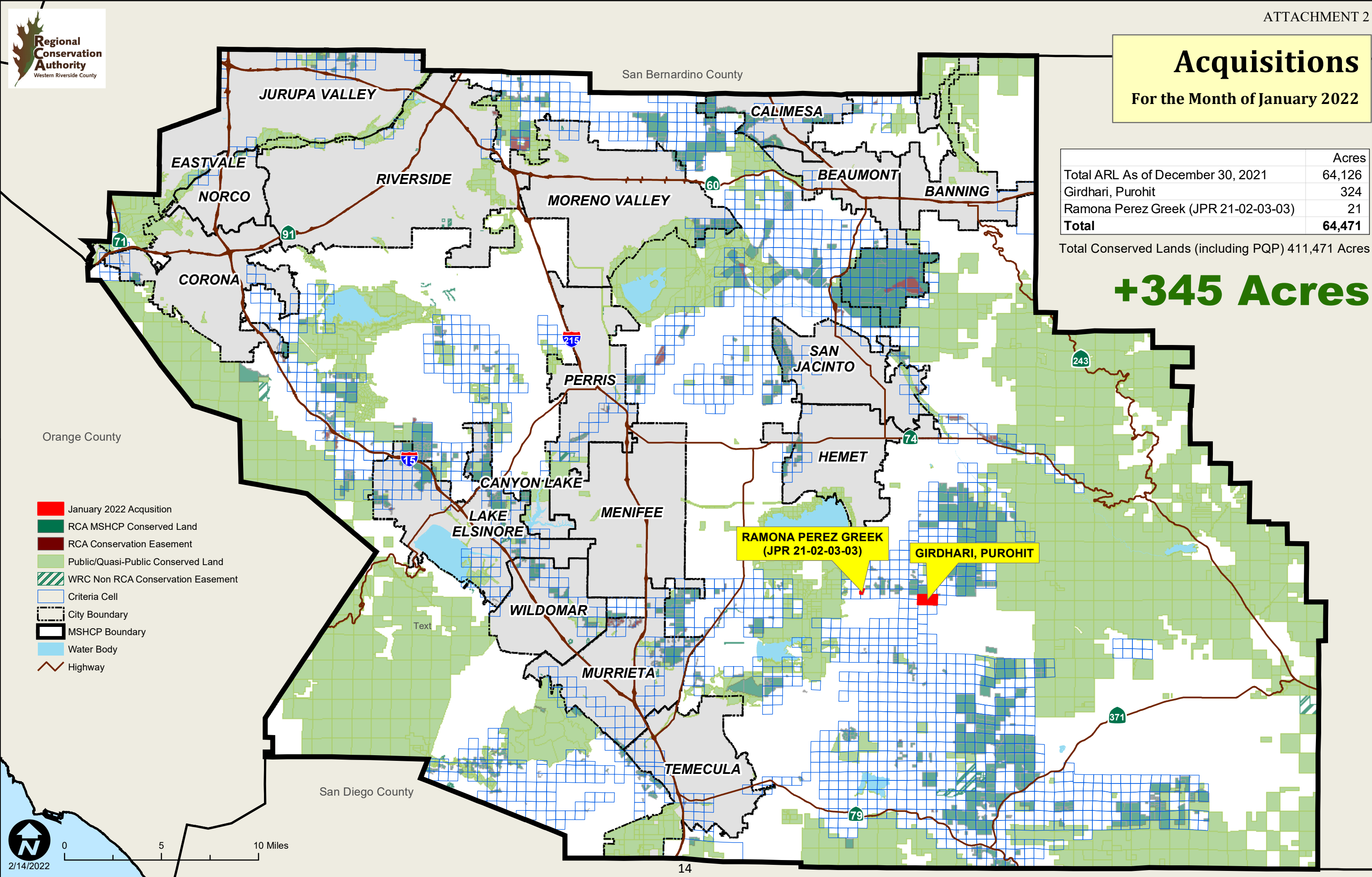
# Acquisitions

For the Month of January 2022

	Acres
Total ARL As of December 30, 2021	64,126
Girdhari, Purohit	324
Ramona Perez Greek (JPR 21-02-03-03)	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,471</b>

Total Conserved Lands (including PQP) 411,471 Acres

**+345 Acres**





# **AGENDA ITEM 6D**





**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 16, 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>FROM:</b>	Tricia Campbell, Reserve Management and Monitoring Manager
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Joint Project Review Status Report

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Joint Project Review (JPR) monthly status report as of February 28, 2022; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Consistent with the Board’s priority on transparency and communication, staff is providing a monthly report of the status of JPRs and other Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) compliance processes. This staff report provides activities in 2022 through February 28, 2022.

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 in 2022.

In 2022, staff has completed two JPRs (Development HANS) and no PSEs or Criteria Refinements. We are in the process of reviewing 18 JPRs (all Development HANS), three PSEs, and two Criteria Refinements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

Attachment: RCA MSHCP Compliance Project Processing from January 1, 2022 thru February 28, 2022



**RCA MSHCP Compliance Project Processing from  
January 1, 2022 thru February 28, 2022**

Actively in Process	Completed in 2022
<b>DEVELOPMENT HANS<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 4)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lake Elsinore Lake Street</li> <li>➤ County Waste Pedley Landfill</li> <li>➤ Murrieta Creek Bridge</li> <li>➤ De Luz Rd Culvert Replacement</li> </ul>	<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 0)</b> None to date in 2022
<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 14)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Perris – 3</li> <li>➤ Lake Elsinore – 2</li> <li>➤ County – 3</li> <li>➤ Temecula – 3</li> <li>➤ Riverside - 3</li> <li>➤ Murrieta - 0</li> </ul>	<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Temecula – 1</li> <li>✓ Lake Elsinore - 1</li> </ul>
<b>NON-DEVELOPMENT HANS<sup>2</sup></b>	
None to date in 2022	None to date in 2022
<b>PARTICIPATING SPECIAL ENTITY</b>	
<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SoCal-Gas Badlands Hydrostatic Testing Project</li> <li>➤ EMWD Wickerd Road Sewer Project</li> </ul>	<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 0)</b> None to date in 2022
<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lockheed Martin Site 1 – Potrero Remedial Action Amendment</li> </ul>	<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 0)</b> None to date in 2022

<sup>1</sup> A project is proposed on the property

<sup>2</sup> No project is proposed on the property and these HANS involve only private entities

Actively in Process	Completed in 2022
<b>CRITERIA REFINEMENTS<sup>3</sup></b>	
<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (Total 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ County Waste Lamb Canyon Landfill Expansion</li> </ul>	<b>PUBLIC PROJECTS (0)</b> None to date in 2022
<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS (Total 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Beaumont Point Specific Plan</li> </ul>	<b>PRIVATE PROJECTS</b> None to date in 2022

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

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 16, 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>FROM:</b>	Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Sergio Vidal, Chief Financial Officer
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Quarterly Financial Statements

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file the Quarterly Financial Statements for the six months ended December 31, 2021;
- 2) Approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 budget adjustments in Attachment 2; and
- 3) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Staff has monitored the revenues and expenditures for RCA for the period ended December 31, 2021, and the attached financial statements present the revenues and expenditures for the second quarter. As a result of the analysis, staff is recommending budget adjustments for the following estimated revenues and land acquisitions:

Revenues:

- Local Development Mitigation Fees (LDMF)
- California Capital Grants and Contributions
- Federal Capital Grants and Contributions

Expenditures:

- Land acquisition

The operating statement shows the LDMF revenues at mid-year at 30 percent of the budget. LDMF revenues are collected by member agencies and then remitted to the RCA. Pursuant to the MSHCP Implementing Agreement, payments to the RCA shall be made no later than 90 days after the LDMFs were collected. This creates a lag in the receipt of revenues by RCA. MSHCP Fee Collection Reports showing collections through December 31, 2021, are included as Attachment 3. Staff recommends reducing developer mitigation estimated revenues and the offsetting appropriation for land acquisition by \$4 million to bring the budget in line with current revenue projections.

Federal and state revenues are only recognized when a grant property is purchased. Four grant properties were purchased in the first two quarters. As more grant properties are purchased in subsequent quarters, staff expects the utilization of these revenues to increase accordingly and exceed budgeted amounts. Therefore, staff recommends a budget adjustment to increase federal and state revenues and related expenditures. The majority of the state revenues budgeted relate to the Jurupa Mountain Grant. The grant was to expire in FY 2021/22, so the entire remaining balance was budgeted. The grant has been extended into FY 2022/23, as such staff recommends reducing the expected revenues and related expenditures to the amount RCA may utilize to acquire land in the Jurupa Mountains this fiscal year.

Tipping fees are remitted to the RCA by the County of Riverside (County). Tipping fees at mid-year are 27 percent of budget. Staff is working with the County to receive the payments timelier.

During the FY 2021/22 budget process, RCA conservatively estimated Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) revenues of \$750,000, passed through from Western Riverside Council of Governments. First quarter TUMF fees were received during the second quarter and are 35 percent of budgeted revenues. Second quarter TUMF fees will be received in the third quarter.

Other fee revenue consists of participating special entity contributions, infrastructure and civic contributions from Member Agencies, and contributions from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). Other fee revenue is 107 percent of budget, as fees related to three large projects have been remitted by the District and by a Member Agency.

Revenue is recognized on donated properties at the time of donation and at appraised value. Staff is working diligently on many land donations, but none were recorded as of mid-year.

During the FY 2021/22 budget process, the RCA conservatively estimated interest income at \$60,300 due to decreasing interest rates. RCA maintains its cash and investments in the Riverside County Treasurer's Pool Investment Fund. The operating statement shows interest revenues at mid-year at 80 percent of the budget.

The expenditures/expenses and other financing sources/uses categories are in line with overall expectations of the budget with the following exceptions:

- General administration costs are 73 percent of budgeted mainly due to insurance costs. RCA is a member of the Special District Risk Management Authority, a public entity risk management pool; insurance policies are renewed at the beginning of the fiscal year. Insurance costs were significantly higher than the budgeted estimate due to the effects of catastrophic losses around the world on the insurance market.
- Contract and legal costs are under budget due to unused budget authority for nearly all contracts, as the amounts relate primarily to the first four to five months of services.
- Riverside County's Facilities Management Department collects two months of rent for RCA office space in the first month of each fiscal year and does not collect rent in June. Therefore, seven months of rent were paid through mid-year.



- Most of the assessments and HOA fees are paid on an annual basis and are not due until later quarters.
- The debt service payment was made during the second quarter, but the related interest payment was not made until the third quarter.
- Capital acquisition expenditures are under budget due to unused budget authority for habitat acquisition; however, staff expects to maximize budget authority for habitat acquisitions in a responsible manner and to the greatest extent feasible.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Through monitoring of revenues and expenditures staff has determined that federal grant revenue is trending higher than expected while not all state grant funds will be utilized during the year and LDMF revenue is trending lower than budgeted. The attached budget adjustments reflecting a net decrease in revenue totaling \$16,342,000 and \$15,742,000 in appropriations are necessary reflecting the anticipated receipts and related expenditures for the remainder of FY 2021/22.

Financial Information					
In Fiscal Year Budget:	No	Year:	FY 2021/22	Amount:	(\$16,342,000) – Revenue (\$15,742,000) - Appropriation
Source of Funds:	Local Development Mitigation Fees, Federal and State Grant Revenues		Budget Adjustment:	Yes	
GL/Project Accounting No.:	51630 935201 777170 Developer Mitigation (\$3,400,000) 52018 935300 777170 Developer Mitigation (\$600,000) 51630 935201 751680 CA-Grant Revenues (12,467,500) 51630 935201 766600 Fed-Capital Grants and Cont. \$125,500 51630 935201 540040 Land (15,742,000)				
Fiscal Procedures Approved:				Date:	

**Attachments:**

- 1) Quarterly Financial Statements – period ended December 31, 2021
- 2) Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Adjustments
- 3) MSHCP Fee Collection Reports



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**QUARTERLY BUDGET TO ACTUAL**  
**2ND QUARTER**  
**FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31 2021**

Amounts are subject to rounding

	FY 2021/22 BUDGET	MID YEAR ACTUAL	REMAINING BALANCE	PERCENT UTILIZATION
<b>Revenues</b>				
Local Development Mitigation Fee	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 5,901,773	\$ 14,098,227	30%
State and federal grants	16,287,000	1,268,000	15,019,000	8%
Tipping fees	3,250,000	872,306	2,377,694	27%
Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee	750,000	261,392	488,608	35%
Other fee revenue	559,000	597,457	(38,457)	107%
Reimbursement for services	258,200	47,916	210,284	19%
Contributions & donations	8,921,000	-	8,921,000	0%
Other revenue	151,600	133,949	17,651	88%
Interest	60,300	48,256	12,044	80%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>50,237,100</b>	<b>9,131,047</b>	<b>41,106,053</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Professional and support</b>				
General administration	225,400	164,291	61,109	73%
Contracts	8,711,900	2,036,856	6,675,044	23%
Legal services	775,000	188,943	586,057	24%
Rental/lease building	203,300	118,375	84,925	58%
Assessments and fees	80,000	2,487	77,513	3%
<b>Total Professional and support</b>	<b>9,995,600</b>	<b>2,510,952</b>	<b>7,484,648</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Debt service</b>				
Principal payment	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	100%
Interest payment	10,000	-	10,000	0%
<b>Total debt service</b>	<b>1,010,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Capital acquisition</b>				
Habitat acquisition and maintenance	36,251,600	2,444,841	33,806,759	7%
Other capital charges	20,000	-	20,000	0%
<b>Total capital acquisition</b>	<b>36,271,600</b>	<b>2,444,841</b>	<b>33,826,759</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>47,277,200</b>	<b>5,955,794</b>	<b>41,321,406</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Excess revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>2,959,900</b>	<b>3,175,253</b>	<b>(215,353)</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>				
Transfer in	3,091,900	-	3,091,900	0%
Transfer out	(3,091,900)	-	(3,091,900)	0%
<b>Total other financing sources(uses)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	<b>2,959,900</b>	<b>3,175,253</b>	<b>(215,353)</b>	<b>107%</b>
Fund balance July 1, 2021	54,980,500	72,185,535	17,205,035	131%
<b>Fund balance December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 57,940,400</b>	<b>\$ 75,360,789</b>	<b>\$ 16,989,682</b>	<b>130%</b>

**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**QUARTERLY ACTUALS BY FUND**  
**2nd QUARTER**  
**FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**  
Amounts are subject to rounding

	Permanent Funds					Combined Total
	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	RCA Endowment	RCA LDMF Endowment	Donor Endowments	
<b>Revenues</b>						
Local Development Mitigation Fee	\$ -	\$ 5,030,845	\$ -	\$ 870,928	\$ -	\$ 5,901,773
State and federal grants	-	1,268,000	-	-	-	1,268,000
Tipping fees	872,306	-	-	-	-	872,306
Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee	-	261,392	-	-	-	261,392
Other fee revenue	597,457	-	-	-	-	597,457
Reimbursement for services	47,916	-	-	-	-	47,916
Contributions & donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenue	47,649	86,300	-	-	-	133,949
Interest	14,956	28,785	1,324	49	3,142	48,256
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,580,283</b>	<b>6,675,321</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>870,977</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>9,131,047</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Professional and support</b>						
General administration	21,052	143,239	-	-	-	164,291
Contracts	1,522,533	514,322	-	-	-	2,036,856
Legal services	63,038	125,905	-	-	-	188,943
Rental/lease building	118,375	-	-	-	-	118,375
Assessments and fees	2,487	-	-	-	-	2,487
<b>Total Professional and support</b>	<b>1,727,486</b>	<b>783,466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,510,952</b>
<b>Debt service</b>						
Principal payment	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000
Interest payment	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total debt service</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>Capital acquisition</b>						
Habitat acquisition and maintenance	-	2,444,841	-	-	-	2,444,841
Other capital charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total capital acquisition</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,444,841</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,444,841</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,727,486</b>	<b>4,228,308</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,955,794</b>
Excess revenues over (under) expenditures	(147,203)	2,447,013	1,324	870,977	3,142	3,175,253
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>						
Transfer in	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer out	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other financing sources(uses)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	<b>(147,203)</b>	<b>2,447,013</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>870,977</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>3,175,253</b>
Fund balance July 1, 2021	25,026,077	39,845,876	2,163,323	-	5,150,259	72,185,535
<b>Fund balance December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 24,878,874</b>	<b>\$ 42,292,890</b>	<b>\$ 2,164,647</b>	<b>\$ 870,977</b>	<b>\$ 5,153,402</b>	<b>\$ 75,360,789</b>



<b>DATE</b>	<b>April 4, 2022</b>
<b>TO</b>	<b>Auditor-Controller</b>
<b>FROM</b>	<b>Jennifer Fuller, Financial Administration Manager</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (FUND 51630 and 52018)</b>

**Background:**

On April 4, 2022, the RCA Board of Directors approved the Fiscal Year 2022 budget adjustments contained herein.

**Requested Action:**

That the Auditor-Controller make the following budget adjustments:

<b>RCA Land Acquisitions (935201)</b>		
<b><u>Decrease Estimated Revenues</u></b>		
51630-935201-777170	Developer Mitigation	\$3,400,000
51630-935201-751680	CA-Grant Revenues	<u>12,467,500</u>
<b>Total Decrease in Estimated Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$15,867,500</u></b>
<b><u>Increase Estimated Revenues</u></b>		
51630-935201-766600	Fed-Capital Grants and Contributions	<u>\$125,500</u>
<b>Total Increase in Estimated Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$125,500</u></b>
<b><u>Total change in Estimated Revenues</u></b>		<b><u>15,742,000</u></b>
<b><u>Decrease Appropriations</u></b>		
51630-935201-540040	Land	<u>\$15,742,000</u>
<b>Total Decrease in Appropriations</b>		<b><u>\$15,742,000</u></b>
<b>RCA Reserve Management (935300)</b>		
<b><u>Decrease Estimated Revenues</u></b>		
52018-935300-777170	Developer Mitigation	<u>\$600,000</u>
<b>Total Decrease Estimated Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$600,000</u></b>
<b><u>Total change in Estimated Revenues (all departments)</u></b>		<b><u>16,342,000</u></b>

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



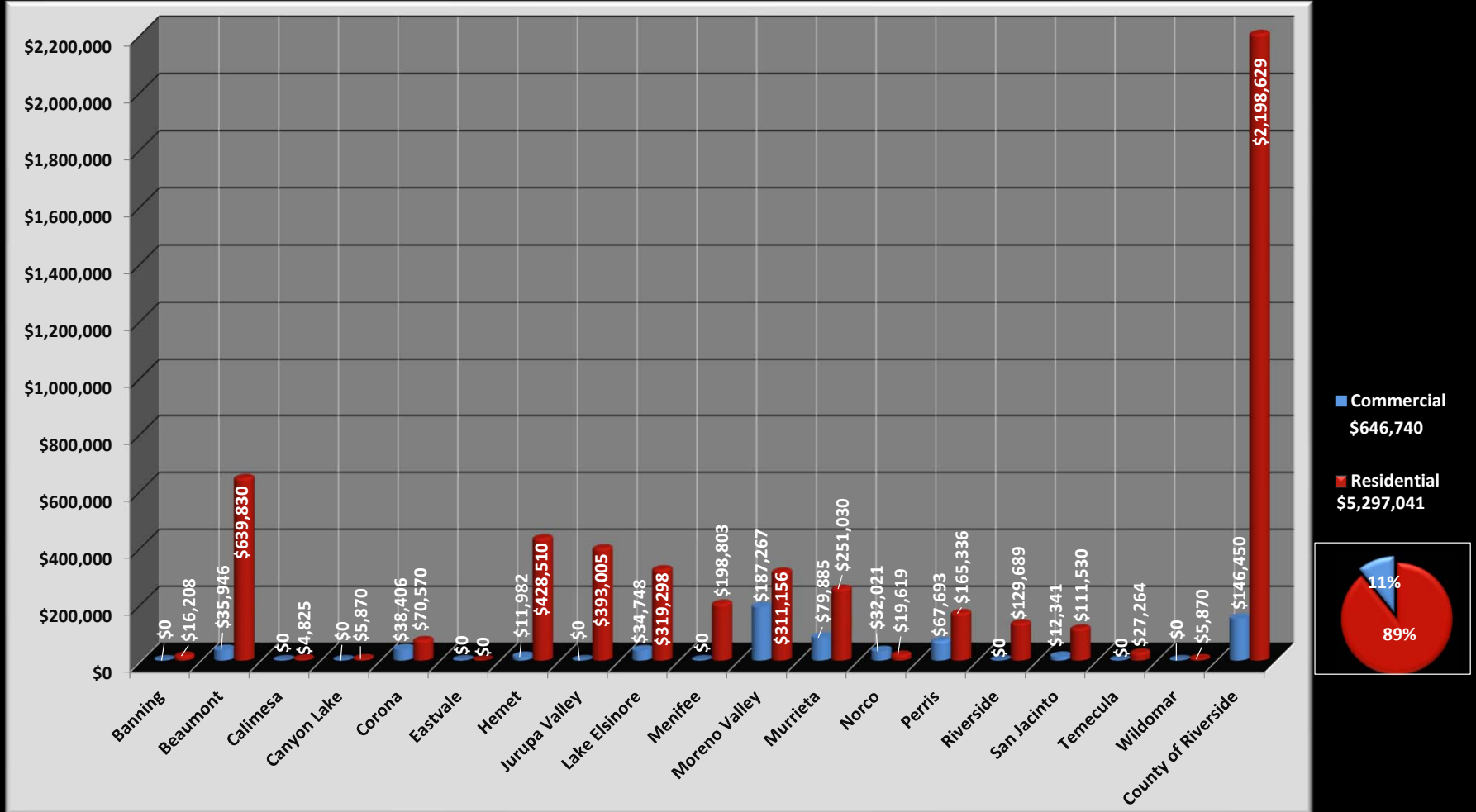
**REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**MSHCP MITIGATION FEE COLLECTIONS BY MEMBER AGENCY**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Note: Amounts subject to rounding

BASED ON CASH BASIS (Month reported by City)

<u>COUNTY AND CITIES:</u>	JULY 2021	AUGUST 2021	SEPTEMBER 2021	OCTOBER 2021	NOVEMBER 2021	DECEMBER 2021	FY 2022 YTD TOTALS	%
CITY OF BANNING			\$ 10,338	\$ 2,935		\$ 2,935	\$ 16,208	0.3%
CITY OF BEAUMONT		170,651	259,540	163,405		82,180	\$ 675,776	11.4%
CITY OF CALIMESA					4,825		\$ 4,825	0.1%
CITY OF CANYON LAKE				2,935		2,935	\$ 5,870	0.1%
CITY OF CORONA			22,913	9,835	2,364	76,098	\$ 111,210	1.9%
CITY OF EASTVALE							\$ -	0.0%
CITY OF HEMET		29,350	137,486	156,256	64,570	52,830	\$ 440,492	7.4%
CITY OF JURUPA VALLEY			316,695	2,935	73,375		\$ 393,005	6.6%
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE		13,888	43,595	99,918	161,425	35,220	\$ 354,046	6.0%
CITY OF MENIFEE			22,816	8,805	5,757	161,425	\$ 198,803	3.3%
CITY OF MORENO VALLEY		114,642	23,349	231,292	52,830	76,310	\$ 498,423	8.4%
CITY OF MURRIETA			94,455	79,680	156,780		\$ 330,915	5.6%
CITY OF NORCO		2,935		37,891		10,814	\$ 51,640	0.9%
CITY OF PERRIS			7,908	73,923	24,114	127,084	\$ 233,029	3.9%
CITY OF RIVERSIDE				10,655	103,858	15,176	\$ 129,689	2.2%
CITY OF SAN JACINTO		85,176	35,760			2,935	\$ 123,871	2.1%
CITY OF TEMECULA					14,007	13,257	\$ 27,264	0.5%
CITY OF WILDOMAR				5,870			\$ 5,870	0.1%
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	811,305	773,697	222,525	182,079	233,333	123,728	\$ 2,346,667	39.5%
<b>TOTAL COUNTY AND CITIES</b>	<b>\$ 811,305</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,339</b>	<b>\$ 1,197,380</b>	<b>\$ 1,068,415</b>	<b>\$ 897,237</b>	<b>\$ 782,927</b>	<b>\$ 5,947,603</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>								
FLOOD CONTROL		\$ 128,408	\$ 12,856	\$ 226,760		\$ 120	\$ 368,144	62.7%
OTHER GOV MSHCP INFRASTRUCTURE		195,371					\$ 195,371	33.3%
OTHER GOV MSHCP CIVIC PROJECTS		22,101		2,662	(821)		\$ 23,942	4.1%
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 345,881</b>	<b>\$ 12,856</b>	<b>\$ 229,422</b>	<b>\$ (821)</b>	<b>\$ 120</b>	<b>\$ 587,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 811,305</b>	<b>\$ 1,536,220</b>	<b>\$ 1,210,236</b>	<b>\$ 1,297,836</b>	<b>\$ 896,416</b>	<b>\$ 783,047</b>	<b>\$ 6,535,060</b>	

**Fiscal Year 2022  
MSHCP Development Mitigation Fee Revenues  
July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021**



Note: Amounts subject to rounding



# **AGENDA ITEM 8**



**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 16, 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>FROM:</b>	Tyler Madary, Senior Management Analyst, Legislative Affairs
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	State and Federal Legislative Update

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Committee to:

- 1) Receive and file an update on state and federal legislative affairs; and
- 2) Forward to the Board of Directors for final action.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

***State Update***

Each year, the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (CHCPC) coordinates an advocacy trip to Sacramento for coalition members to educate decision-makers about Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and advocate for increased funding. RCA staff participated in a series of virtual meetings coordinated by CHCPC with agency representatives, legislators, and their staff based in Sacramento. The CHCPC coordinated 27 meetings for the week of February 28, 2022, 16 of which RCA staff participated. Among others, RCA met with California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Deputy Secretaries Amanda Hansen and Jennifer Norris, as well as California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director Chuck Bonham.

In addition to advocating for increased funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for land acquisition programs in order to implement the State’s 30x30 and climate action goals in each of these meetings, the CHCPC has taken RCA’s lead in also promoting HCPs and NCCPs as tools to sustainably streamline development. Legislators have taken an interest in this nexus as they endeavor to address the state’s housing shortage. RCA staff (staff) believe that broadening outreach and messaging will in turn broaden legislative interest in the many benefits that HCPs and NCCPs provide.

Staff learned the following from the virtual advocacy trip:

- Director Bonham informed CHCPC that CDFW has resolved the delayed implementation of the FY 2022 Local Assistance Grant (LAG) and will expeditiously fund the awards, including RCA’s, while extending the performance period to three years;

- Deputy Secretary Norris fervently supports HCPs and NCCPs and sees them and corresponding land acquisition funding as key to implementing the State’s 30x30 goals;
- Deputy Secretary Hansen is interested in exploring how HCPs and NCCPs may broaden their role in nature-based solutions to climate change, such as monitoring the carbon sequestration of conserved plants and soils and managing climate impacts to lands, and is also interested in what funding and resources HCPs and NCCPs would need from the State to accomplish this in the future;
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon’s staff indicated that the Legislature was eager to increase funding to the WCB last year, the increased funding to WCB is an evident path to successfully implementing 30x30, and approved CHCPC’s effort to highlight the benefit of HCPs and NCCPs to housing;
- The Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Richard Bloom, who Chairs Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3, indicated that ongoing funding requests will be a challenge given the volatility of the General Fund and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund year over year, and instead suggested that one-time funding requests to be allocated over a few years would be more feasible; and
- Assembly Housing Committee staff immediately understood and appreciated the role that HCPs and NCCPs play in streamlining housing development in an environmentally sustainable manner, at a time when the State grapples with a housing shortage and their climate action goals.

### ***RCA Comments to Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3***

As a part of RCA’s legislative strategy, informed by the Board’s adopted 2022 State and Federal Legislative Platform, as well as guidance of the Board, RCA submitted a public comment letter and provided oral comments on February 9, 2022, to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation, also known as Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3. Among other items, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 received a presentation on the implementation of the \$3.6 billion, three-year Climate Resilience Package (Package), which was included in last year’s budget.

RCA provided comments on the Package’s \$768 million set-aside for nature-based solutions to climate change, \$593 million of which is expected to be appropriated this year. In addition to presenting HCPs and NCCPs as shelf-ready tools to implement the state’s climate action and conservation goals, RCA requested the Subcommittee’s support for increased and ongoing funding in the state budget for land acquisition programs, such as those administered by the WCB. RCA believes that such funding would be critical for the state to meet its ambitious goals.

This is the first of several engagements that staff intend to make on behalf of the Board throughout this year’s budget process.

### ***RCA Comments on Draft Pathways to 30x30***

On February 15, 2022, RCA submitted public comments on the CNRA's draft *Pathways to 30x30* document. This caps off months of engagement on RCA's part to make sure that HCPs and NCCPs were included as a part of the state's strategy to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030, with an emphasis on the need for the state to fund more land acquisition. Once CNRA finalizes the *Pathways to 30x30* document, the agency is expected to provide a more specific budget change proposal for the Climate Resilience Package, which staff will monitor and weigh in on, accordingly.

### ***Federal Update***

RCA continues to monitor implementation of the bipartisan \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to determine how HCPs may be an eligible component to the climate resiliency funding elements contained in the new law. On February 18, 2022, RCTC submitted a response to a broad Request for Information (RFI) by the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding how to best approach implementation of the IIJA. RCTC's response to this RFI includes comments in support of adding greater weight and consideration to proposed projects for the new Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program that are located within HCPs.

### ***Wildlife Refuge Bill***

Work continues with Senator Feinstein and Representative Calvert's offices to ensure bicameral support for establishing a refuge in Western Riverside County. Staff continues to engage with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office and their D.C. headquarters office via contact with Representative Calvert and Senator Feinstein's staff.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is a policy and information item. There is no fiscal impact.

#### Attachments:

- 1) State and Federal Update Legislative Matrix
- 2) RCA/CHCPC Sacramento Virtual Advocacy Meeting List
- 3) RCA Comment Letter to Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
- 4) RCA Comment Letter to CNRA Draft *Pathways to 30x30*
- 5) RCTC Comment Letter to USDOT RFI on IIJA



## WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY POSITIONS ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION – MARCH 2022

Legislation/ Author	Description	Bill Status	Position	Date of Board Adoption
SB 45 (Portantino)	<del>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.</del>	Gutted and amended by Senator Portantino into an organic waste bill.  January 3, 2022	<del>Support, if amended  (based on platform)</del>	<del>April 8, 2021</del>
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 on May 20, 2021. Died as of January 31, 2022 deadline for each house to pass bills introduced in their house in 2021.  February 1, 2022	Support, if amended  (based on platform)	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	Support	April 5, 2021





## 2022 RCA/CHCPC Sacramento Virtual Advocacy Trip Meetings

Day	Time	Office	Strategic Position
2/28	2:00 PM	CNRA Deputy Secretary Amanda Hansen	Deputy Secretary for Climate
2/28	3:00 PM	Senator Wieckowski Staff	Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources; Appropriations
3/1	9:30 AM	Assemblymember Wicks Housing Committee Staff	Chair, Assembly Housing Committee
3/1	10:30 AM	Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia Staff	Represents portions of Coachella Valley
3/1	1:30 PM	Senator Ochoa-Bogh	Represents portions of western Riverside County
3/1	3:00 PM	Senator Roth Staff	Represents portions of western Riverside County
3/1	4:00 PM	Senator Portantino	Chair, Senate Appropriations; Member, Senate Budget
3/2	9:30 AM	Senator Hertzberg Staff	Member of Senator Natural Resources; Housing thought leader
3/2	10:00 AM	Senator Laird Staff	Member of Senate Budget and Senate Natural Resources; former CNRA Secretary
3/2	1:00 PM	CNRA Deputy Secretary Jen Norris	Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity
3/3	11:30 AM	Assemblymember Bloom	Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources
3/3	12:00 PM	Senator Wiener Housing Committee Staff	Chair, Senate Housing Committee
3/3	1:00 PM	CDFW Director Bonham	Leads California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3/4	9:30 AM	Assemblymember Luz Rivas Staff	Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee; Member, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources
3/4	11:00 AM	Speaker Rendon Staff	Speaker - leader of Assembly
3/4	12:30 PM	Senator Caballero Staff	Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on General Government (including Housing)





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 951.787.7141 • wrc-rca.org

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
 Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3  
 California State Assembly  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
 Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Comments on the Implementation of the Climate Resilience Package**

Dear Chair Bloom:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), I respectfully submit the following comments on the Implementation of the Climate Resilience Package, Issue 1 of Items to be Heard for the February 9, 2022, hearing. The RCA implements the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), a planned 500,000-acre reserve to protect 146 species. Our plan is both a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

RCA applauds the administration and legislature's efforts to address climate change and build climate resiliency with nature-based solutions. With the help of HCPs and NCCPs, California can accelerate the conservation of critical habitat that will not only bolster the biodiversity of our ecosystems, but naturally sequester carbon. HCPs and NCCPs are critical for regions like ours, which continue to experience dramatic population shifts from Los Angeles and Orange Counties to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The inland region is one of the fastest growing, and fastest developing in the state, due to available land.

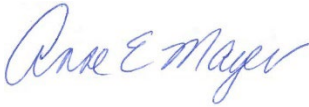
The California Natural Resources Agency's draft *Pathways to 30x30* document recognizes the role that HCPs and NCCPs have to play in advancing these goals and identifies a series of Strategic Actions, the first and most important of which is to "Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions."

Our ambitious climate action and conservation goals will not amount to any real-world benefit without dedicated, ongoing funding in the state budget for land acquisition programs, including those administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The largest HCP in the country with the most protected species is located right here in Western Riverside County, and substantial investments from the state are needed to avoid irreversible land conversion from rapid development.

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
February 8, 2022  
Page 2

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne E. Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Mayer  
Executive Director

CC: Members of the Western Riverside County Legislative Delegation





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February 15, 2022

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot  
 Secretary  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 715 P Street, 20th Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Comments on the Draft *Pathways to 30x30***

Dear Secretary Crowfoot:

On behalf of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft *Pathways to 30x30* and its appendices. RCA applauds the state's efforts to conserve 30 percent of the state's lands and waters by 2030 and to advance nature-based solutions to climate change. With the help of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP), California can accelerate the conservation of critical habitat that will not only bolster the biodiversity of our ecosystems, but naturally sequester carbon.

The California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) diligent outreach over the past year shows in this draft, which recognizes the role that HCPs and NCCPs have to play in advancing the identified Strategic Actions, particularly:

- Executing Strategic Land Acquisitions;
- Accelerating Regionally Led Conservation; and
- Institutionalizing Advanced Mitigation.

The following comments will highlight: 1) the role that RCA and HCPs and NCCPs across the state may play in advancing the Strategic Actions outlined above; 2) requested changes to Appendix A to better reflect the diversity of challenges and opportunities in the Los Angeles Region; and, most importantly, 3) the critical need for increased, ongoing state funding to implement the ambitious agenda outlined in *Pathways to 30x30*.

### **HCPs and NCCPs Are Best Positioned to Deliver 30x30**

HCPs and NCCPs currently exist for the preservation, conservation, and the protection of land, species, and habitat, which allow for growing regions like Riverside County to sustainably thrive. These Plans are ready, willing, and have the long-term infrastructure to acquire, restore, and uplift land that can deliver on the state's goal to protect vital habitats and open space across the state, in perpetuity. To that end, the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) in western Riverside County, the largest HCP in the nation, has planned for a 500,000 acre preserve to protect 146 species. The MSHCP consists of 347,000 acres of existing public/quasi-public lands owned by federal, state, and local governments, as well as 153,000 acres of Additional Reserve Lands that are currently being assembled. Thanks to existing partnerships with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 82 percent of the 500,000 acres have been preserved in western Riverside County, with under 90,000 acres to go. Together, HCPs and NCCPs across the state account for over two million acres of planned reserves.

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot  
February 15, 2022  
Page 2

HCPs and NCCPs have over 30 years of experience as locally administered, large-scale land acquisition and perpetual habitat management programs. The institutional knowledge of HCPs and NCCPs extends not only to its partnerships with state and federal wildlife protection agencies, but to the diverse and localized management and uplift needs of the ecosystems they protect. Much more than project-by-project mitigation tools, HCPs and NCCPs provide extensive, science-based planning that has prioritized critical habitats, landscapes, and wildlife corridors for conservation.

As a result, HCPs and NCCPs serve as accelerators of nature-based solutions to climate change – facilitating carbon sequestration and bolstering the climate resiliency of biodiverse ecosystems.

### **Do Not Overlook the Inland Empire in Appendix A**

RCA requests that Appendix A be revised to better reflect the conservation needs of the inland areas of the Los Angeles Region. A greater emphasis must be placed on the dramatic population shifts from Los Angeles and Orange Counties to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The inland region is one of the fastest growing in the state, due to available land, and faces the threat of irreversible land conversion due to rapid development.

The chaparral of the Inland Empire should be listed both as important habitats and as potential nature-based solutions in the Los Angeles Region – thus prioritizing conservation and restoration of these critical landscapes whose deep root systems sequester carbon and provide irreplaceable habitat to threatened species.

### **Increased, Ongoing State Funding for Acquisition is Critical to the Success of 30x30**

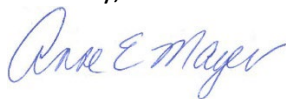
The ambitious climate action and conservation goals outlined and supported in *Pathways to 30x30* are vital but require increased, ongoing funding in the state budget for land acquisition programs, including those administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board. WCB has a proven record of facilitating land acquisition and habitat restoration projects, and therefore should be prioritized for increased, ongoing funding to implement the Strategic Actions outlined in *Pathways to 30x30*.

An explicit call for increased and ongoing state funding for proven acquisition programs across the state must be inserted into *Pathways to 30x30* and followed up with advocacy from CNRA for inclusion in the State Budget, in the Climate Resilience Package and beyond.

The largest HCP in the country with the most protected species is located right here in western Riverside County, and substantial investments from the state are needed to avoid irreversible land conversion from rapid development.

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

Sincerely,



Anne Mayer  
Executive Director



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February 18, 2022

Ms. Stephanie Pollack, Deputy Administrator  
 Federal Highway Administration  
 c/o Docket Management Facility  
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE – W12-140  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

**Subject: RCTC Comments on Request for Information, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Federal Highway Administration – Docket No. FHWA–2021–0021)**

Dear Administrator Pollack:

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Notice of Request for Information (RFI) published on December 1, 2021, regarding implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (referred to in the RFI as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL).

### **Riverside County Transportation Commission**

In 1976, California Governor Edmund G. Brown created RCTC as a county transportation commission and regional planning agency with the intent to enhance public transit, prioritize highway and transit projects, improve air quality, and other related goals. Today, RCTC plans and implements transportation and transit improvements, assists local governments with funding for local streets and roads, facilitates goods movement, provides commuters with congestion relief on local highways, operates tolled express lanes, and ensures everyone has access to transportation.

RCTC is governed by a board with elected representatives from all 28 cities in Riverside County, the five County Supervisors, and one Governor’s appointee. According to the latest U.S. Census, Riverside County is currently the 10<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the country with over 2.5 million residents – which is an increase in population of approximately 15% since 2010.

Riverside County is both geographically and economically diverse - spanning over 7,000 square miles with both urban and rural areas. We have the population of New Mexico in an area the size of New Jersey.

To the west and south are Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties while to the north and east are San Bernardino and Imperial counties and the state of Arizona. A wide array of industries and employers thrive in Riverside County, including but not limited to public and private higher education institutions, leading technology firms, medical and healthcare facilities, vineyards and wineries, farming, music festivals, state and national parks and monuments, tourism, and goods movement.



Stephanie Pollock, Deputy Administrator

February 18, 2022

Page 2

Located adjacent to Los Angeles County, which has two of the largest port complexes in the world, Riverside County is home to some of the largest warehousing and distribution centers in the country. Transportation in Riverside County is severely impacted by goods being distributed all over the United States. Primary rail and highway freight corridors, including Interstates 10 and 15 and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) rail lines, bisect the county. These corridors facilitate the distribution of economically vital goods, but not without leaving a large air quality and congestion impact on Riverside County.

Given the diversity of the transportation needs throughout Riverside County, RCTC is committed to a broad array of transportation solutions to meet these challenges that reflect a commitment to improved mobility, environmental protection, sustainability, and equity.

Riverside County is a “self-help” county. In 1988, as the population of Riverside County was increasing, RCTC proposed a half-cent sales tax measure to Riverside County voters. This sales tax measure, known as Measure A, required a two-thirds approval of the voters, of which 78.9 percent voted yes. The original Measure A was a 20-year plan that promised to deliver critically important mobility improvements throughout Riverside County. Because RCTC delivered on those promises to the voters and because of our commitment to fulfilling our promises, the voters in the county have approved an extension of Measure A for another 30 years with a new expiration date of 2039.

RCTC supports the FHWA’s efforts to solicit input on the implementation of the BIL. RCTC’s comments on the RFI are set forth in this letter and the attachment. The attached comments include proposed items for consideration by the FHWA and provides a concise and convenient manner for USDOT staff to review RCTC’s response. The responses to the specific items in the RFI are intended to be read in the context of the overview points made in this letter.

RCTC stands ready to assist the FHWA and the U.S. Department of Transportation on the implementation of the BIL. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Interim External Affairs Director David Knudsen at (951) 787-7141.

Sincerely,



Anne Mayer  
Executive Director

Enclosure: *Riverside County Transportation Commission Response to the Request for Information (6 pgs.)*

## **Riverside County Transportation Commission Response to the Request for Information**

### **(i) Potential opportunities and challenges for implementing new BIL programs**

#### **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation Program – PROTECT**

##### *Specific reference*

Section 11405 – Section 176 of title 23, United States Code

##### *Detailed description*

RCTC requests that USDOT and FHWA allow for flexibility in the demonstration of resiliency need. Vulnerability to natural disasters and projected increases of regional natural disasters should be given as much weight as established histories of regional natural disasters. Such flexibility will promote the need for a forward-thinking approach to resiliency by making necessary infrastructure improvements to mitigate future disasters. Additional consideration should be given to applications from eligible entities that have adopted a Climate Action Plan, are advancing “smart freeway” technologies to manage traffic or utilize express lanes to expand express bus service.

##### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given to those applications with projects that:

- Are located in states, regions, or localities that have a history of projected increase of impacts from, or demonstrated vulnerability to wildfires, extreme heat, droughts, earthquakes, or floods;
- Are located in states, regions, or localities that have adopted a climate action plan or climate adaptation and resiliency strategy;
- Propose to utilize innovative technologies to better manage traffic; or
- Increase or improve mobility options using existing or planned facilities, such as express lanes that create or expand express bus service.

#### **Bridge Investment**

##### *Specific reference*

Section 11118 – Section 124 of title 23, United States Code

##### *Detailed description*

Structural deficiencies are a common denominator of bridge investment needs across the country. Riverside County and San Bernardino County, collectively known as the Inland Empire in California, continue to experience dramatic population growth due to migration from the coastal urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Access to affordable housing and lower costs of living will only increase the use of already-deficient bridges in the region. To generate the most public benefit through the Bridge Investment Program, priority should be given to regions experiencing faster rates of population growth, which increases the use of structurally deficient bridges and accelerates the need for their replacement.

In order to meet the stated priorities of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), consideration should also be given to projects that promote public safety and benefits to disadvantaged communities, as well as those projects that help facilitate goods movement.

Specifically, the replacement or upgrading of low water crossings would offer immense benefit to disadvantaged communities. For example, the Coachella Valley has a large number of low water crossings that experienced mass flooding on February 14, 2019, and remain vulnerable to mass flooding. Replacing or upgrading these bridges would limit the disproportionate impacts of this type of flooding on disadvantaged communities and limit disruptions to the local economy.

#### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Are located in regions that are experiencing high rates of population growth;
- Maximize public safety and benefit to disadvantaged communities and goods movement; or
- Prioritize investments on low water crossings.

#### **Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program**

##### *Specific reference*

Section 11123 – Section 171 of title 23, United States Code

##### *Detailed description*

Riverside County is home to the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Western Riverside MSHCP) and the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Coachella Valley MSHCP), which are authorized by the Endangered Species Act to streamline housing, infrastructure, and other developments while mitigating for impacts to protected species and their habitats. Rather than taking a project-by-project approach to mitigation, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) plan at the scale of whole landscapes and ecosystems. HCPs map out habitats and wildlife corridors that would need to be preserved to protect specific species and broader biodiversity. RCTC believes the public and ecological benefit of the pilot program would be maximized if projects located in HCPs, which have already done the necessary planning to identify wildlife corridors of protected species, were given greater consideration.

#### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Are located in Habitat Conservation Plans, as defined in Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act; or
- Are in the immediate proximity to and enhance linkages of habitat of protected species.

#### **National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program**

##### *Specific reference*

Section 21201 – Chapter 67, section 6701 of title 49, United States Code

### *Detailed description*

Riverside County and San Bernardino County, collectively known as the Inland Empire in California, continue to experience dramatic population growth due to migration from the coastal urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in order to access affordable housing and lower costs of living. To generate the most public benefit through the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program, priority should be given to regions experiencing faster rates of population growth, which increases the use of already impacted corridors and accelerates the need for operational improvements and new or increased multimodal options.

### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Are located in regions experiencing high rates of population growth;
- Include operational improvements;
- Create or increase multimodal options;
- Reduce traffic delays and barriers between communities;
- Improve safety;
- Benefit goods movement;
- Utilize technology to enhance mobility; or
- Utilize pricing to manage congestion.

## **Local and Regional Project Assistance Program**

### *Specific reference*

Section 21202 – Chapter 67, section 6702 of title 49, United States Code

### *Detailed description*

Riverside County and San Bernardino County, collectively known as the Inland Empire in California, continue to experience dramatic population growth due to migration from the coastal urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in order to access affordable housing and lower costs of living. To generate the most public benefit through the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program, priority should be given to regions experiencing faster rates of population growth, which increases the use of already impacted corridors and accelerates the need for operational improvements and new or increased multimodal options.

### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Are located in regions experiencing high rates of population growth;
- Include operational improvements;
- Create or increase multimodal options;
- Reduce traffic delays and barriers between communities;
- Improve safety; or
- Benefit goods movement.

## **Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment Program**

### *Specific reference*

Section 13006(b) – Section 503(c)(4) of title 23, United States Code

### *Detailed description*

Favorable consideration should be given to applications from eligible entities that advance the use of “smart freeway” technologies to manage traffic on existing facilities.

### *Considerations*

When scoring grant applications, additional consideration and weight should be given projects that:

- Propose the implementation of new technology for operational improvements or safety improvements on existing facilities.

(ii) Potential opportunities and challenges for implementing existing programs modified by BIL

## **Highway Safety Improvement Program**

### *Specific reference*

Section 11111 – Section 148 of title 23, United States Code

### *Detailed description*

Riverside County and San Bernardino County, collectively known as the Inland Empire in California, continue to experience dramatic population growth due to migration from the coastal urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in order to access affordable housing and lower costs of living. This migration exacerbates the negative impacts that rail crossings have on communities—many of them disadvantaged—by serving as a barrier to community connectivity and increasing travel times, as well as air polluting emissions from idling vehicles.

### *Considerations*

Additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Reduce traffic delays and barriers between communities, including rail crossings.

## **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)**

### *Specific reference*

Section 11115 – Section 149 of title 23, United States Code

### *Detailed description*

As a program, CMAQ is critical to addressing poor air quality that disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities. In large states like California, disadvantaged communities outside of coastal urban centers risk benefiting the least from CMAQ funding if awarded by the state. If regional agencies are allowed to direct CMAQ funding, in partnership with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, then non-urban disadvantaged communities will receive more equitable benefits

from projects that improve air quality. Additionally, local agencies will save substantial resources that would otherwise be directed toward the pursuit of a statewide program. Projects that would benefit these communities include rail crossing grade separations, express lanes, transit improvements, and commuter and intercity rail improvements.

*Considerations*

RCTC proposes that in large and populous states, that USDOT and FHWA allow regional agencies, in partnership with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, to have a greater and more substantive role in funding decisions.

**National Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program**

*Specific reference*

Section 11110 – Section 107 of title 23, United States Code

*Detailed description*

The Inland Empire continues to experience dramatic population growth as a result of migration from the coastal urban areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties due to more affordable housing and costs of living, which will only increase use of corridors already impacted by freight and goods movement in the region. To generate the most public benefit through the National Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program, priority should be given to regions experiencing faster rates of population growth in order to facilitate much-needed operational improvements and new or increased multimodal options.

*Considerations*

Additional consideration and weight should be given to projects that:

- Are located in regions experiencing high rates of population growth;
- Include operational improvements;
- Create or increase multimodal options;
- Reduce traffic delays and barriers between communities;
- Improve safety; or
- Benefit freight and goods movement.

**Preliminary Engineering**

*Specific reference*

Section 11310 – Section 102 of title 23, United States Code

*Detailed description*

RCTC applauds the repeal of the repayment requirement for projects not ultimately delivered. An example of the importance of this provision is the approximately 15 years that were needed to clear the environmental phase on the Mid County Parkway and State Route 79 Realignment projects in Riverside County. Since that time, RCTC has been trying to advance each of these projects in fiscally manageable packages, which also takes considerable time. A shift away from investing in new transportation facilities has increased across the country in general and in states like California in particular. RCTC and other agencies should not be punished for the policy changes undertaken by state and federal governments that can prevent agencies like RCTC from being able to fully deliver these projects. While these projects remain a priority for RCTC, completion will not be possible without a change in state policy, along with additional state

and federal investment. RCTC remains vulnerable to the requirement of repaying funds for undelivered projects prior to the enactment of the IIJA and Section 11310. These repayments will be a financial blow for agencies and communities that had previously advanced these projects.

#### *Considerations*

RCTC requests that the repeal of the repayment requirement for projects be applied retroactively.

#### **Transportation Alternatives**

##### *Specific reference*

Section 11109(b)(1) – Section 133(h) of title 23, United States Code

##### *Detailed description*

As a program, Transportation Alternatives is critical to improving transportation mobility in disadvantaged communities. In large states like California, disadvantaged communities outside of coastal urban centers risk benefiting the least from Transportation Alternatives funding when awarded competitively by the state. If regional agencies were allowed to direct Transportation Alternatives funding in partnership with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, then non-urban disadvantaged communities would receive their fair share. The non-urban communities would not have to compete against large cities that have substantial budgets and staff to review grants. Additionally, local agencies will save substantial resources that are currently directed toward the pursuit of a statewide program.

#### *Considerations*

RCTC requests that program funding be distributed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations, rather than the state.