EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

TIME:	**11:30 a.m.**
DATE:	**Monday, August 3, 2026**
LOCATION:	**March Field Conference Room** **County of Riverside Administrative Center** **4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, CA 92502**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Bash, City of Norco – Chair
Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside, District 2 – Vice Chair
Julio Martinez, City of Beaumont
Dale Welty, City of Canyon Lake
Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto
Joseph Morabito, City of Wildomar
Chuck Washington, County of Riverside, District 3

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

www.wrc-rca.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

11:30 a.m.
Monday, August 3, 2026

March Field Conference Room
County of Riverside Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, CA

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 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 – *Each individual speaker is limited to speak three (3) continuous minutes or less. The Board may, either at the direction of the Chair or by majority vote of the Board, waive this three-minute time limitation. Depending on the number of items on the agenda and the number of speakers, the Chair may, at his/her discretion, reduce the time of each speaker to two (2) continuous minutes. In addition, the maximum time for public comment for any individual item or topic is thirty (30) minutes. Also, the Board may terminate public comments if such comments become repetitious. Speakers may not yield their time to others without the consent of the Chair. Any written documents to be distributed or presented to the Board shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. This policy applies to Public Comments and comments on Agenda Items.*

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 – MAY 4, 2026

Page 1

7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Page 11

Overview

This item is for the Committee to receive and file an update on the development of the Wildfire Management Plan (WMP), including upcoming stakeholder outreach and engagement.

8. 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, October 5, 2026**.

AGENDA ITEM 6A

MINUTES

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, May 4, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Kevin Bash at 11:30 a.m., in the March Field Conference Room at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. ROLL CALL

Members/Alternates Present	**Members Absent**
Karen Spiegel*	Julio Martinez
Chuck Washington	
Dale Welty	
Kevin Bash	
Crystal Ruiz	
Joseph Morabito	

*Arrived after the meeting was called to order.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Welty.

At this time, Vice Chair Spiegel arrived.

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 (Welty/Ruiz) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2026

6B. RECURRING CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/27

1) Approve the single-year recurring contract with the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) for biological monitoring services in an amount not to exceed $2,324,595, for FY 2026/27; and
2) Authorize the Chair or Executive Director, pursuant to legal counsel review, to execute the agreement on behalf of RCA.

7. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 BUDGET

Daniel Hernandez, Financial Administration Manager, provided a presentation on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/27. The Executive Summary includes the budget's policies, goals and objectives, an overview of proposed sources and uses, program initiatives, projected fund balances, budget summary schedules, and appendices including the monitoring work plan. The MSHCP requires a Biological Monitoring Program to collect data on the MSHCP's 146 covered species and their associated habitats and to assess the MSHCP's effectiveness at meeting conservation objectives. The Monitoring Program Administrator submits an annual Work Plan and Cost Estimate for the Monitoring Program to be approved by the RCA Board of Directors.

The Budget Policies provide the framework for budget development and promote fiduciary responsibility and organizational excellence. RCA's budget policies include:

- Funding the endowment with 15 percent of Local Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) revenues in accordance with the 2020 Nexus Study;
- Annual Review of the non-development HANS funding level, set by the Board of Directors through budget policy. The funding level has varied between 1 and 5 percent and is proposed at 5 percent in FY 27;
- The Economic Stability Policy requiring RCA to maintain at least $9 million in cash for continued operations;
- Funding Allocations permitting LDMF to be used for all of RCA's program needs in accordance with the 2020 Nexus Study;
- The Fund Balance policy which requires the maintenance of at least equal to the next two years of anticipated funding needs; and
- RCTC Deposit level review to ensure at least two months of RCTC invoices are covered.

In summary, RCA's proposed FY 2027 Budget document complies with the budget policies.

Staff anticipates beginning FY 2027 with approximately $99 million in total fund balance. FY 2027 estimated sources of $39.7 million are less than estimated uses of $56.2 million, resulting in the projected fund balance use of $16.5 million. The General Fund anticipates use of $5.6 million due to conservatively budgeted general fund revenue, a planned reduction in the transfer from the Capital Projects Fund, along with anticipated increases in contracts. The Capital Projects Fund anticipates fund balance use of $14.8 million, largely attributed to lower than anticipated collection of LDMF when compared to previous fiscal year activity. Finally, the Endowments Fund is anticipated to increase by $3.9 million. Through the use of prudent budgeting based on sound fiscal planning by this Board, RCA can use fund balance next year to purchase important habitat and pay off the Toscana note payable one year ahead while remaining compliant with the budget policies described in the previous slide.

FY 2027 sources for the upcoming fiscal year are anticipated to be approximately $39.7 million, which is an increase of approximately $2.3 million from the FY 2026 projected actuals. The increase is primarily attributed to an increase in Land Donations, offset by a decrease in Miscellaneous Revenue. As part of April's Board Meeting, staff provided a FY 2026 LDMF update, noting lower collections of development-based revenue, including both LDMF and Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF). As a result, the FY 2026 budgets for both LDMF and TUMF were reduced from $25.6 million to $18 million, and $1.1 million to $700,000, respectively. Based on year-to-date collections, staff are projecting FY 2027 LDMF revenue at $18 million, in line with both the FY 2026 Amended Budget and Projected Actuals.

The FY 2027 grants amount includes $1.5 million from a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to purchase Arroyo Toad-inhabited properties totaling approximately 164 acres. Staff are actively pursuing other grant opportunities. If further grants are secured, staff will return to the Board with a budget adjustment to appropriate the funding. The amounts for Land Donations reflect the estimated value of land anticipated to be donated to the RCA and are offset by Habitat Acquisition expenditures. Staff anticipate the acquisition of seven land donations with an estimated value of $10.6 million and approximately 311 acres during FY 2027. Four of these seven donations, totaling approximately $4.7 million, were initially anticipated to be donated in FY 2026 but have been re-budgeted for FY 2027 and excluded from the FY 2026 projected actuals.

Tipping Fees anticipated in FY 2027 are $3.6 million and include collections from the County for 2.13 million tons of out-of-county waste. After coordinating with the Western Riverside County of Governments (WRCOG), the TUMF budget for FY 2027 is set at $700,000 reflecting lower than anticipated development-based revenue collections. Other revenue sources include reimbursements for services, civic and infrastructure contributions, interest, and other revenue. The FY 2027 revenue estimates are conservatively budgeted and are in line with FY 2026 Amended Budget amounts due to the unpredictability of revenues from civic, infrastructure, and participating special entities fees. The FY 2026 projected actuals are significantly higher than the FY 2027 proposed budget largely due to participating special entity revenue of $2.4 million from the state. Furthermore, FY 2027 budgeted interest revenues reflect a conservative investment yield of 3.5 percent compared to the County's investment yield of 3.8 percent in March 2026. Rounding out Sources are Operating Transfers, providing funding for reserve management and monitoring and Program Administration to be covered by LDMF revenues.

LDMF revenues are traditionally difficult to predict because of their connection to development. Based on year-to-date collections, staff is projecting FY 2027 LDMF revenue at $18 million, in line with the FY 2026 Amended Budget and projected actuals. Staff will continue to monitor LDMF revenues and will bring forward a budget adjustment if the collections are markedly different from projections.

Overall proposed expenditures for the FY 2027 Budget are $56.2 million and reflect an approximate $5.9 million increase when compared to the FY 2026 projected actuals, largely due to an increase in contract expenditures and the planned early retirement of debt associated with the Toscana land acquisition. Program Administration and Reserve Management and Monitoring make up the RCA's general fund. Habitat Acquisition is the capital projects fund. Endowments are accounted for within the Endowments Fund.

Habitat Acquisition is projected to increase by $3.2 million from the FY 2026 projected actuals. Approximately 47 percent of the cost of properties will be covered by grant funds and donations. Additionally, debt service payments totaling $12.6 million represent the third and fourth of four scheduled annual payments related to the Toscana acquisition and result in the early retirement of the associated notes payable. Reserve Management and Monitoring and Program Administration are increasing mainly due to contract costs from vendors and the projected increasing in the use of those contracts.

General administration expenditures are anticipated to increase by $381,000 when compared to the FY 2026 projected actuals. The increase is largely due to projected increases in insurance expenses. Remaining general administration expenses are generally aligned with the FY 2026 Amended Budget. RCA pays the majority of its contracts through the RCTC management services agreement. Only payments for County services, including land management services from County Parks, and land acquisitions are not paid through this agreement. The FY 2027 proposed contract expenditures are generally in alignment with the FY 2026 Amended Budget, reflecting a small increase of approximately 5 percent. In comparison to the FY 2026 projected actuals, the FY 2027 contracts budget is anticipated to increase by approximately $3.9 million, reflecting projected increases in management services provided by RCTC.

Assessments and fees expenditures of $120,000 represent special assessments and homeowner association fees for RCA-owned land subject to such fees. Debt Service expenditures relate to the early retirement of the notes payable associated with the Toscana purchase. Specifically, FY 27 anticipates the payment of two debt service installments to retire the debt early. Habitat acquisition and maintenance expenditures of $25.9 million reflect a decrease of $26.8 million from the FY 2026 Amended Budget and a decrease of $4.1 million from the FY 2026 projected actuals. Habitat acquisition and maintenance include the value of land acquired and the costs to acquire the land. The 2020 Nexus Study permits the use of LDMF revenues for all program functions of the RCA. Operating transfers out relate to the transfer of LDMF revenues from the capital projects fund to the general fund to assist with funding Reserve Management and Monitoring and Program Administration.

In FY 2024, RCA entered into loan agreements for the purchase of the Toscana property. The total amount of the loans was $24.1 million. In FY 2027, RCA plans to make the third and fourth of four annual payments, for a total of $12.6 million leading to the early retirement of the notes payable and interest payment savings of approximately $140,000.

Habitat Acquisition and Maintenance budgeted expenditures of $26.0 million reflect three different types of acquisitions for an approximate 1,489 additional acres of reserve land.

Grants provide $1.5 million of the projected budget for acquisitions in FY 2027. The funding is derived from a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the purchase of Arroyo Toad-inhabited properties. Mitigation Fees, primarily LDMF and some TUMF funds, along with use of fund balance, are anticipated to fund the acquisition of 14 properties for an estimated 1,014 acres at an approximate total of $13.9 million. RCA funded acquisition estimates include:

- Willing seller properties totaling $2.2 million for 335 acres.
- Non-Development HANS properties totaling $2.1 million for 400 acres.
- The remaining $9.6 million is anticipated to fund Development Hans properties, tax sale properties, and other acquisition related costs.

RCA staff expect to receive seven donations during FY 2027 with a projected value of $10.6 million and approximately 311 acres of Additional Reserve Land (ARL).

Vice Chair Spiegel asked for more information on the state grants. Daniel Hernandez explained that during this fiscal year, RCA acquired one property and the remaining 2023 Section 6 grant funds pertain to another set of properties. Unfortunately, since the grant balance is already associated with specific properties, RCA is unable to repurpose those grant funds. Staff are waiting for feedback from the 2025 Section 6 grant.

Aaron Hake, Executive Director, added that when RCA receives a Section 6 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), you apply for specific properties. If you are unable to acquire a specific property, the grant does not allow the agency to shift those funds; instead, they are returned to the funding pool and must be competed for again. RCA staff have already submitted for this fiscal year and are waiting for an announcement about the outcome.

Board Member Washington wanted to know if there was an issue with the appraised value of the grant property that RCA was not able purchase.

Aaron Gabbe, Regional Conservation Director, shared that since RCA must purchase properties at the appraised price, landowners do not always agree with the valuation. This resulted in the RCA having grant funds that could not be used.

Aaron Hake added that when RCA receives federal grant funds, it must follow Yellow Book appraisal requirements and cannot negotiate the purchase price.

M/S/C (Ruiz/Morabito) to:

1) Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget and related Resolution No. 2026-003 "*Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget Including Budget Policies*"; and

2) Approve the Biological Monitoring Program Work Plan and Cost Estimate included as Appendix B in the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget.

8. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR MSHCP COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Page 56

Overview

Harry Sandoval, Regional Conservation Deputy Director, provided a presentation on the Professional Servies Agreement for MSHCP Compliance Review Services. The RCA is responsible for overseeing and implementing the MSHCP. The MSHCP is one of the largest and most comprehensive habitat conservation plans in the United States. Part of the RCA's responsibilities is reviewing projects for consistency with pertinent sections of the MSHCP. The RCA review duties can be broken down into two main categories. Joint Project Reviews (JPRs) are carried out for any public or private projects that occur within the MSHCP criteria area. JPRs make up the bulk of the cases that RCA must review. The second category consists of Participating Special Entities (PSEs) projects, which are submitted by public agencies and regional service providers. Projects submitted as PSEs may occur anywhere in the MSHCP plan area, not necessarily within the criteria area. Each project must be reviewed within the timeline specified in the MSHCP, 14 days for JPRs and 30 days for PSEs.

To understand what consultant support is needed by the RCA, it is important to note the limited staffing levels of the agency and the unpredictable workloads. The RCA has two Compliance Senior Management Analysts who are responsible for the review of technical documents submitted by permittees or PSEs. Technical documents that are generally submitted for review include MSHCP consistency analyses, focus species surveys, and determinations of biologically equivalent or superior preservation. The two GIS Management Analysts assist with compliance reviews by helping with reserve assembly calculations, analyzing submitted GIS data, and preparing any required mapping. Currently, the Deputy Director's responsibility is to review all work completed by the RCA and consultants before it is transmitted to permittees or applicants. The Deputy Director's MSHCP compliance responsibilities will be shifted to the new Compliance Manager position, which is currently being recruited for, to allow the Deputy Director to more proactively manage the Board's priorities.

The MSHCP requires RCA staff to complete reviews within specified timelines, and the RCA has no control over when documents are received for review. Often, JPR and PSE submittals exceed the RCA's ability to process all applications within the required time frames. Having an on-call consultant allows the RCA to scale its workforce based on the volume of JPR and PSE submittals received. This approach also prevents bottlenecks during periods of high project volume and allows the RCA to maintain compliance with MSHCP-specified time frames.

The RCA currently has a contract with Dudek that is ending in June. The contract has been approved and amended by the Board since 2004. This is the first procurement for MSHCP compliance review services since the MSHCP was approved. Staff utilized this opportunity to update the Scope of Work (SOW) associated with this contract and seek an on-call consultant from the open marketplace. The new SOW better reflects the RCA's current needs, while the previous SOW included various administrative tasks and items related to land management, which the RCA can now carry out without assistance. The new SOW focuses on compliance reviews and reduces the use of contractor-provided services. The new contract also contains an important firewall provision that ensures the consultant cannot utilize its work on behalf of the RCA to benefit other clients who are seeking MSHCP compliance services.

On March 4, the RCA released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for MSHCP Compliance Review Services, and three firms submitted proposals by the April 1 deadline. Proposals were received from Dudek, Mountainview Biological, and ICF. An evaluation committee comprised of RCA staff and staff from a partner agency evaluated the proposals using a weighted factor method, as it allows the RCA to identify the most advantageous proposal with price and other factors considered. Non-price factors include elements such as qualifications of firm and staff qualifications, understanding, and approach.

After reviewing the proposals, the evaluation committee held interviews with the two highest-ranked ranking firms. After the interviews, the evaluation committee determined that Dudek provided the most comprehensive proposal. The proposal from Dudek demonstrated that its staff has have a thorough understanding of the services requested and the SOW that was provided in the RFP. The evaluation committee concluded that Dudek's knowledge, experience, and qualifications outweighed the cost and would help RCA avoid a steep learning curve that would likely result in additional time and expenses if a new firm were to take on the requested work.

The total cost proposed by Dudek for services requested in the RFP is $2,564,600. Costs for years one through three would be $1,477,500, and years four and five would be $1,087,100. The costs provided are not to exceed amounts and the contractor is not guaranteed this amount; the contractor will only be paid for the services required by the RCA. The previous agreement with Dudek for similar services was amended in 2025 to allow a not to exceed amount of $430,000 for a one-year period. The current proposal amounts to an increase of approximately $80,000 per year if divided equally over the term of the agreement. With the changes made to the SOW and the addition of a Compliance Manager, RCA anticipates reducing costs associated with the agreement to levels below the not to exceed amount.

Vice Chair Spiegel wondered about the drastically different bid amounts if any understanding was gained as to why they were so different. Harry Sandoval stated that the opinion of the evaluation committee was that the significant difference was the understanding of the work that was being requested. There was a significant gap in the understanding that was demonstrated between the two shortlisted firms.

Board Member Welty clarified if applications were to slow down, the work could be completed in-house. Harry Sandoval confirmed that this was correct; this is a strictly on-call contract that would only be used when requested by staff.

Aaron Hake thought it was important for Harry Sandoval to point out how the cost aligned with the current fees that are being paid and to provide details on how the difference in understanding was a concern for the evaluation committee.

Harry Sandoval stated that the final amendment with Dudek from 2025 was for a not to exceed amount of $430,000. The current proposal from Dudek is approximately $80,000 higher, spread out over the five-year term, so it is not significantly different from the current agreement. There are some changes based on the hours, and the hours used were based on a worst-case scenario. There was also a slight increase, of less than five percent, in the rates that are being charged for the contract. The expense of this new contract is fairly similar to what the RCA is paying currently.

As for the understanding of the firms who submitted proposals, the general process and the questions that were provided during the interview demonstrated that there was a lack of understanding of the process of the RCA permitting process. It also showed an overall lack of general understanding of the MSHCP itself.

Aaron Gabbe thought Harry Sandoval summarized the issue very well and added that one of the risks of selecting a firm that is less qualified because of cost is that, during those crunch periods when the RCA must rely on the consultant, the accuracy of their work must still be reviewed, thus negating the reason for hiring the consultant.

Board Member Welty wanted to know if the main increase was due to the hourly rate and if that would remain in effect over the five-year period. Harry Sandoval stated that an increase if the hourly rate contributed to the cost increase.

Jose Mendoza, Procurement Manager, noted that there would be a rate increase after the three-year mark.

M/S/C (Ruiz/Welty) to:

1) **Award Agreement No. 26037 to Dudek to provide MSHCP compliance review services for a five-year term, in an amount not to exceed $2,564,600; and**
2) **Authorize the Chair or Executive Director, pursuant to legal counsel review, to finalize and execute the agreement, on behalf of the RCA.**

9. TERMINATION OF BEEKEEPER LICENSE AGREEMENTS

Harry Sandoval provided a presentation on Apiary License Agreements. The RCA issues license agreements for the limited use of reserved lands or RCA-owned facilities. License agreements are issued when access or use of RCA properties is required for a period of more than one year. Shorter term use of RCA-controlled lands or facilities is permitted through the right-of-entry process. Some uses for which the RCA has issued license agreements in the past include biological research, educational surveys, access to existing telecommunication infrastructure, and apiary (beekeeping activities). License agreements are valued and issued on a case-by-case basis. Permitted uses associated with license agreements may not impact any species or habitat conserved under the MSHCP, and the proposed activity may not hamper biological management or monitoring activities.

On April 1, 2026, the RCA provided written notification to all apiary license agreement holders that the RCA would no longer be renewing apiary license agreements. As detailed in the individual license agreements, the RCA has the discretion to terminate license agreements by providing a 30-day written notice. The cancellation notice that was sent out required that apiary operations be removed from RCA-controlled lands by June 30, 2026, providing a total of 90-days' notice. At the time the notice was issued, there were a total of five apiary license agreements that were active. In addition to the notification letter that was distributed, staff have reached out to all affected license agreement holders, along with the Riverside County Farm Bureau. Discontinuing apiary license agreements will have a fiscal impact resulting in an approximately $6,000 annual loss of revenue to the RCA.

The potential impacts of non-native bees on Crotch's bumble bee were the main factors that led to the decision to no longer renew apiary license agreements. Apiaries utilize non-native bees such as the western honeybee, also known as the European honeybee. The state of California has approximately 1,600 species of native bees. Unlike western honeybees, California native bees are usually solitary, non-hive forming, species that would not function for honey production. Non-native bees compete with native bees for food resources such as pollen and nectar, may transmit disease and parasites, and can alter pollination dynamics in sensitive plant species that are covered by the MSHCP. Various scientific publications describe the impacts that non-native bees have on the native bee populations. The petition for listing the Crotch's bumble bee submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, identified the negative impacts that non-native bees have on Crotch's bumble bee as well as other native species in the area.

The amendment that the RCA is working on to the MSHCP to add Crotch's bumble bee also influenced the RCA's decision to discontinue apiary license agreements. As part of the amendment, MSHCP permittees will have the opportunity to mitigate impacts to Crotch's bumble bee through conservation actions on reserve lands. Mitigation will include the protection and enhancement of Crotch's bumble bee habitat on conserved lands. The introduction and support of non-native species such as the western honeybee, which can directly or indirectly impact Crotch's bumble bee would be counterproductive and likely not permitted by the regulating wildlife agencies. As the primary purpose of the MSHCP reserve system is to protect and recover populations of conserved species, and in anticipation of adding Crotch's bumble bee to the MSHCP, the RCA can no longer support apiaries on reserve lands.

Board Member Morabito thought it was a shame that the Crotch's bumble bee influenced this decision but understood that there was not anything the RCA could do about it.

Vice Chair Spiegel asked if the apiaries, once removed from RCA lands, had obtained permits elsewhere. Harry Sandoval confirmed that they had.

Chair Bash shared that the city of Norco issues permits for apiaries and Corona does as well.

Aaron Hake added that a couple of the license holders are not happy about this decision, so Board Members may hear from them.

This item is for the Board of Directors to receive a report on the termination of beekeeper license agreements on RCA reserve lands.

10. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

There were no comments or reports.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for consideration by the Executive Committee, Chair Bash adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, July 6, 2026**.

Respectfully submitted,

Melonie Donson

Melonie Donson
Deputy Clerk of the Board

AGENDA ITEM 7

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	August 3, 2026
TO:	Executive Committee
FROM:	Cody Bear Sutton, Reserve Management/Monitoring Manager
THROUGH:	Aaron Hake, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Update on Development of the Wildfire Management Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for the Committee to receive and file an update on the development of the Wildfire Management Plan (WMP), including upcoming stakeholder outreach and engagement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) is developing a WMP to guide wildfire prevention, fuels management, and fire response coordination across RCA-managed lands within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Conservation Area.

The WMP will serve as a comprehensive, program-level framework that prioritizes the protection of life and property while supporting conservation of MSHCP covered species and their habitats. The plan will guide future, more detailed wildfire management planning at the Habitat Management Unit (HMU) level and ensure consistency with applicable policies and regulatory requirements. HMUs are geographically defined subdivisions of the Conservation Area where the WMP's program-level direction will be translated into site-specific fuels management and fire response actions. Development of the WMP is being conducted in coordination with Dudek and includes collaboration with fire agencies, wildlife agencies, tribal representatives, and other stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

Plan Development

Development of the WMP has made significant progress. A major milestone has been the completion of the core hazard and risk modeling, which serves as the technical foundation for the plan. This modeling evaluates burn probability, wildfire hazard, risks to structures, and potential impacts to sensitive species and habitats. It also assesses the potential for post-fire vegetation type conversion, a key concern for maintaining native shrubland habitats under the MSHCP. Type conversion occurs when areas dominated by vegetation such as coastal sage scrub, which is not adapted to frequent or high-intensity fire, burn too frequently and grasses take over the burn scar rather than native shrubland vegetation recovering in its place.

These results will directly inform prioritization of fuels management and other wildfire risk reduction strategies across the reserve system. With this technical analysis largely complete, the project is now in the early administrative draft phase. Current efforts are focused on translating these results into management strategies and integrating them into a comprehensive planning framework.

The WMP will guide wildfire management across the RCA reserve system by identifying areas of elevated risk and establishing strategies for fuels management, wildfire prevention, and supporting wildfire response, while maintaining consistency with MSHCP conservation objectives.

Stakeholder Coordination

Stakeholder coordination remains a key component of WMP development as the project progresses toward completion.

RCA has been conducting targeted coordination with Tribal governments and fire agencies, including outreach to Tribal representatives and fire chiefs to solicit input on plan development, risk modeling, and management considerations. These efforts are ongoing and are intended to ensure that Tribal perspectives, local knowledge, and fire agency priorities are appropriately reflected in the plan.

Following completion of the administrative draft, RCA is planning to convene a broader stakeholder meeting in August that will include invitations to county and city fire chiefs, as well as participation from wildlife agencies and other partners. This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss key components of the administrative draft WMP, including wildfire risk and vegetation type conversion modeling, and to gather feedback on management approaches and implementation considerations prior to release of the first public draft.

Coordination with wildlife agencies is ongoing throughout the process to ensure consistency with the MSHCP and applicable federal and state requirements related to habitat conservation and wildfire management. RCA will continue to engage partners and stakeholders as needed to support development of a plan that balances wildfire risk reduction with conservation objectives.

Schedule and Next Steps

Development of the WMP will continue through the following phases:

- Summer 2026: Stakeholder engagement and preparation of the administrative draft
- Fall 2026: Agency coordination and review
- Winter 2026/2027: Release of the public draft and public review period
- Early 2027: Finalization of the plan and presentation to the Board

Staff will continue working with Dudek and coordinating with stakeholders and agencies to refine the plan and incorporate feedback throughout each phase of development.

FISCAL IMPACT

The development of the Wildfire Management Plan is included in the RCA's approved budget under the existing professional services agreement with Dudek. This item is informational only and has no additional fiscal impact.