



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

DATE: Monday, November 2, 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, November 2, 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 – OCTOBER 5, 2026**

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7. **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RCA BYLAWS TO ADD A GOVERNMENT CLAIMS POLICY**

Page 6

Overview

This item is for the Committee to recommend the Board of Directors take the following action(s):

- 1) Approve the proposed amendment to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Bylaws to add a Government Claims Policy, subject to the four-week noticing period required in Article XIV(B) of the proposed amended RCA Bylaws; and
- 2) Introduce Resolution No. 2026-004, *“Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Amending Its Bylaws to Add a Government Claims Policy”*.

8. **REQUEST TO OPPOSE SDG&E’S PROPOSED PRELIMINARY ROUTING CORRIDOR THROUGH SOUTHWESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND TEMECULA**

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Overview

This item is for the Committee to recommend the Board of Directors take the following action:

- 1) Adopt a formal opposed position to San Diego Gas & Electric’s proposed preliminary routing corridor for the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project within southwestern Riverside County and the City of Temecula.

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 **Monday, December 7, 2026.**

AGENDA ITEM 6A

MINUTES

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, October 5, 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

Karen Spiegel
Julio Martinez
Kevin Bash
Crystal Ruiz
Joseph Morabito

Members Absent

Chuck Washington
Dale Welty

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Bash.

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/Morabito) to approve the following Consent Calendar items.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 3, 2026

7. COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE FEE CREDIT REQUEST FOR THE CORONA CLAY PROJECT

Aaron Gabbe, Regional Conservation Director, presented the County of Riverside Fee Credit Request for the Corona Clay Project. The RCA received a request for a Local Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) credit for the Corona Clay Project from the County of Riverside (County),

in exchange for transferring to the RCA approximately 51 acres of land that are described for conservation by the MSHCP and which would qualify as Additional Reserve Lands (ARL). The Corona Clay Project is a 113-acre development project proposed by the Corona Clay Company. It is located in an unincorporated part of the County, south of the city of Corona, north of Dawson Canyon Road, and east of Temescal Canyon Road. Lands proposed for conservation are within the Temescal Wash West subunit of the Temescal Canyon Area Plan and Cell Groups E and F. Conservation within these cell groups will contribute to the proposed extension of Existing Core 2.

The majority of the Corona Clay Project consists of various ongoing uses that have been developed over many decades. The project proposes a Conditional Use Permit, Surface Mining Reclamation Plan, Change of Zone, and General Plan Amendment. The discretionary actions proposed will permit existing operations within the project area. Approximately ten years ago the County began an effort to bring operations associated with the Corona Clay Project in compliance with County Codes. Challenges in completing the entitlement process eventually led to a settlement agreement between the County and the Corona Clay Company. The settlement agreement committed the County and the Corona Clay Company to working cooperatively to complete the entitlement process. In the agreement the County committed to providing the project with MSHCP fee credits.

The RCA Board adopted MSHCP Mitigation Fee Implementation Manual provides criteria for fee credit. The County's request is consistent with some, but not all, RCA Board-adopted policies. The request specifically complies with the following requirements in the Board's Policy:

- Land proposed for conservation is within Criteria Cells and will contribute to Reserve Assembly.
- Land proposed for conservation are of appropriate size, configuration, and location to be managed as part of the MSHCP Reserve. This land is located within areas described by the MSHCP for conservation.
- Land proposed for conservation does not include fuel modification areas, manufactured slopes, storm drains or other areas incompatible with conservation.
- The fee credit will "only be provided to the underlying property owner or development company at the time the fee applies and is not transferable to other entities, individuals, or development projects."

Specifically, the fee credit will be applied only to the project as described in the corresponding Joint Project Review document.

The request does not comply with the following policies:

- Fee credit cannot be awarded for conservation areas that are not considered developable land in the absence of the MSHCP. No fee credits are requested for conservation areas that are not considered developable land in the absence of the MSHCP.
 - The County submitted an analysis that reduced the land available for fee credit from 50.9 to 42.6, however, the appraisal submitted did not exclude the 8.3-acre difference; therefore, it is staff's interpretation that fee credit is requested for the entire 50.9 acres that will be conveyed to the RCA. Based on the property value reported in the appraisal and the estimated LDMF due, a reduction of 8.3 acres would not lower the value of the

property below the estimated LDMF due.

- The appraisal submitted by the County did not meet the standards in Section 6.1.1 of the MSHCP.

The County's fee credit request included a non-MSHCP-conforming appraisal of the conservation lands. While the appraisal submitted complies with Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, it does not comply with the MSHCP standard, which is the Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, commonly known as Yellow Book standards. The appraisal concluded that the land had a value of \$15.00 per square foot. The total value of the 50.9 acres that will be conveyed to the RCA is \$33,226,020. The County estimates that the LDMF for the project will total approximately \$1,061,061. RCA staff believe that an MSHCP-conforming appraisal would not significantly lower the cost of the property that will be conveyed to the RCA as ARL.

Per the MSHCP Mitigation Fee Implementation Manual:

"[c]onservation land associated with approved Fee Credits shall be conveyed in fee title to the RCA or another entity or organization that can hold conservation easements. The conservation land shall be free of encumbrance that could adversely impact the ability to manage the conservation land in accordance with the MSHCP. Conveyance of the conserved land must occur prior to the point in time when MSHCP payment is due for the Project, and the Member Agency shall not issue occupancy permits for the Project until the conservation land has been conveyed and any fee balance has been paid to the RCA. If a non-member agency holds title to the land, the entity must enter into a Management Memorandum of Understanding with the RCA agreeing to manage the land in accordance with the MSHCP prior to issuance of a grading permit for the Project."

The County estimates that the LDMF for the Project will total approximately \$1 million. The estimated LDMF for this project is based on impacts described in pending discretionary approvals. The fiscal impact is estimated to be a positive value of approximately \$32 million, specifically approximately \$33 million in value of the land, minus approximately \$1 million in uncollected fees. The precise value of the land will be determined by a fully conforming appraisal. Once the timing of the land donation is known, staff will determine if a budget adjustment is needed to recognize the donation.

Board Member Ruiz wanted to know how many unusual requests like this had been approved. Jennifer Fuller, Deputy Director of Finance, shared that there had not previously been a request like this, but one was brought forward in 2021-2022 that was not approved, although there have been others that were approved.

Aaron Hake, Executive Director, added that RCA has had multiple fee credit requests over the years, with the Board approving one last year for Murrieta Hills. There was a fee credit request that was brought forward by the city of Moreno Valley, for a non-compliant request, that was rejected by the Board. This request is unique in that the appraisal does not meet the Board policy, however, looking at the information provided the outcome is likely to be the same when the appraisal is refined to meet federal standards.

Hector Casillas, Right of Way Manager, shared that the difference in the appraisal that was done and the Yellow Book Standard is that you must name an intended user and what the purpose of the appraisal is. The other change is the parcel is larger than 50.9 acres, and the appraisal did not go into depth with the larger parcel. It was requested that more analysis be carried out in that section of the report to make it comply and see if it would have an impact on any comparables that might have been used to justify the value. With all those factors considered, staff does not believe if those changes were made it would significantly alter the value. Yellow book is simply the uniform appraisal standard for federal acquisition.

David Stahovich, representing Corona Clay, pointed out that this project is in a settlement agreement with the County. The appraisal that was done was for 50.85 acres, so it is unclear how that will affect the 50.9 acres figure that was used. The settlement agreement with the County also requires Corona Clay to have a conservation easement, they were instructed to dedicate land to cover the fee credit, and the rest of the land would go into a conservation easement, which is essentially the same thing. When they approached their appraiser about conforming to Yellow Book Standards, it was thought to be unnecessary because no federal funds were being used and it was possible that the value may come in higher.

Board Member Martinez wondered if approving this would set a precedent, because there are several issues that are not compliant.

Aaron Hake agreed that this was something staff had discussed extensively. The situation here is that there is a settlement agreement, and this is a property that is attempting to come back into compliance. There are enough unique circumstances that, even if the Board accepts the appraisal, staff do not believe it would set a precedent for future requests. Staff are commissioning a new conforming appraisal, the value of the property needs to be understood for budgeting purposes, and the appraisal will be Yellow Book Standard. The intent is to have this new appraisal done by the time this item goes to the Board for approval.

Board Member Morabito noted that this was a lot of information and asked staff to summarize what was important and what could be ignored.

Aaron Gabbe stated that based on all the technical feedback, the difference between being fully in compliance is not likely to come anywhere close to the fee itself. Complying would not have an effect, staff believes, on the end result. Regardless, the value will be considerably higher than fee credit needed.

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

- 1) Approve a fee credit request from the County of Riverside for the Corona Clay Project and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Fee Credit Agreement with the County of Riverside on behalf of the RCA. The fee credit shall only be granted after a total of 50.9 acres, as described and depicted in Joint Project Review (JPR) 24-01-30-01, are conveyed to the RCA. Per the Western Riverside Multiple-Species**

Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Mitigation Fee Implementation Manual, this fee credit shall only be applied to this project.

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Aaron Hake thanked the Chair for meeting with Secretary Crowfoot in August. They were able to tour an RCA property and have a discussion on the MSHCP.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for consideration by the Executive Committee, Chair Bash adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held on **Monday, November 2, 2026.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Lisa Mobley
Administrative Services Director/
Clerk of the Board

AGENDA ITEM 7

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	November 2, 2026
TO:	Executive Committee
FROM:	Ward Simmons, Legal Counsel Lisa Mobley, Administrative Services Director/Clerk of the Board
THROUGH:	Aaron Hake, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Proposed Amendment to the RCA Bylaws to Add a Government Claims Policy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Committee to recommend the Board of Directors take the following action(s):

- 1) Approve the proposed amendment to the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) Bylaws to add a Government Claims Policy, subject to the four-week noticing period required in Article XIV(B) of the proposed amended RCA Bylaws; and
- 2) Introduce Resolution No. 2026-004, *"Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Amending Its Bylaws to Add a Government Claims Policy"*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RCA Bylaws

Pursuant to Section 17 of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), RCA has the power to adopt such rules and regulations as its Board of Directors may deem necessary for the conduct of RCA's affairs. Article XIII of the existing RCA Bylaws governs amendments to the Bylaws and would be renumbered as Article XIV under this proposal.

Summary of Proposed Revisions

The proposed amendment adds a new Article XIII, Government Claims Policy, and renumbers the existing Amendments article as Article XIV. The policy establishes procedures and delegated authority for processing claims for money or damages presented to the RCA under the California Government Claims Act.

The proposed Government Claims Policy would:

- Authorize the Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, to review claims; determine claim sufficiency; allow, reject, partially allow, or compromise claims; return untimely claims; and take no action when appropriate;
- Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, after consultation with General Counsel, to settle claims in the amount of \$50,000 or less, while reserving settlements in excess of \$50,000 for Board approval;

- Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, to review and grant or deny applications for late-claim relief;
- Apply Government Code section 935 claim-presentation requirements to claims for money or damages when no other state or local procedure applies; and
- Require written responses, proof of mailing, and statutory notices for insufficient, rejected, or untimely claims.

Adding these procedures to the Bylaws will provide a clear and consistent process for handling claims, preserve Board oversight of settlements exceeding \$50,000, and permit routine claims administration to be handled efficiently by the Executive Director. The policy requires consultation with General Counsel before exercising the delegated settlement authority. Delegation will help RCA meet statutory deadlines without bringing each claim to the Board. The option to take no action recognizes that a claim generally is deemed rejected by operation of law if the agency does not act within the applicable statutory period; it does not eliminate applicable notice requirements.

Government Code section 935.4 authorizes a local public entity, by ordinance or resolution, to delegate specified claims-handling functions to an agency employee. The proposed resolution and bylaw amendment would establish this delegation for RCA.

Notice and Adoption Schedule

Article XIII(B) of the existing RCA Bylaws, proposed to be renumbered as Article XIV(B), requires all regular members to receive at least four weeks' notice of any proposed bylaw amendment. Notice may be provided on a Board meeting agenda or by separate notice delivered by mail, email, or facsimile to each regular member.

Following the Executive Committee's recommendation, the full Board will be notified by email on November 2, 2026. Receipt of notice on that date would provide 35 days before the anticipated December 7, 2026, Board meeting, exceeding the four-week notice requirement. The Board may approve the proposed Bylaw revisions and adopt Resolution No. 2026-004 at its December 7, 2026, meeting, following completion of the required notice period. Introduction of the resolution is a preliminary step; final adoption would occur after the notice period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact from amending the RCA Bylaws. Any payment or settlement of an individual claim would be evaluated and authorized in accordance with the proposed Government Claims Policy and applicable budget authority.

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution No. 2026-004
- 2) Proposed Amended Bylaws
- 3) Redline Bylaws

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-004**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN
RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
AMENDING ITS BYLAWS TO ADD A GOVERNMENT CLAIMS POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (“RCA”) is a public agency of the State of California formed by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (“JPA”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 17 of the JPA, the RCA has the power to adopt such rules and regulations as the RCA’s Board of Directors (“Board”) may deem necessary for the conduct of the RCA’s affairs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XIII of the RCA Bylaws, the RCA has presented to its members an amendment to the RCA Bylaws which amends the process for the Board to select members to the Executive Committee pursuant to Article IX, Section A, paragraph 3;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is necessary at this time to revise the RCA’s Bylaws as set forth in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, notice of this change to the Bylaws has been provided as required in the Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED that the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby resolves to amend its Bylaws as noted in the redline version attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

This Amendment shall be effective upon the approval of this Resolution by the Board of Directors.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority on this 7th day of December, 2026.

By: _____

Kevin Bash, Chair
Western Riverside County
Regional Conservation Authority

ATTEST:

By: _____

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

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORIZATION

- A. **NAME.** The name of this agency shall be the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, hereinafter known as the RCA.
- B. **AUTHORIZATION.** The County of Riverside (“County”) and the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, and Temecula, by that Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated as of January 27, 2004 (“Agreement”) created the RCA for the purpose of acquiring, administering, operating, and maintaining land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for certain rare, threatened, and endangered species covered by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (“MSHCP”). The Agreement was amended on April 7, 2009, to add the Cities of Menifee and Wildomar, on May 5, 2011, to add the City of Eastvale, and on December 5, 2011, to add the City of Jurupa Valley.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, DUTIES & POWERS

- A. **PURPOSE.** The RCA shall acquire, administer, operate, and maintain land and facilities to establish habitat reserves for the conservation and protection of species covered by the MSHCP and to implement the MSHCP after the MSHCP is approved by the County and Cities and appropriate permits are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- B. **DUTIES AND POWERS.** Duties and Powers of the RCA are set forth in local, state, and federal law and the Agreement, as may be amended from time to time. These duties and authorization include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. To make and enter into contracts;
 - 2. To employ agents, consultants, attorneys, and employees;

3. To acquire property, and any interest in property, both real and personal by purchase, gift, option, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, and hold and dispose of such property;
4. To conduct and direct studies and to develop and implement plans to complement, modify, or supplement the MSHCP;
5. To incur debts, liabilities, and obligations;
6. To sue and be sued in its own name;
7. To employ reserve managers and other personnel to operate, maintain, and administer the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
8. To be an applicant, make applications for, and receive grants from governmental and private entities and to participate in State bond issues;
9. To prepare project reports and applications, to qualify for grants, and to enter into grant contracts and to do all other things necessary to comply with State and Federal laws and regulations with respect to grants;
10. To borrow or receive advances of funds from its members or from such other sources as may be permitted by law;
11. To contract with its members and other entities who operate or will operate the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
12. To issue bonds, notes, warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness to finance costs and expenses to carry out the powers of the RCA;
13. To acquire, hold, and dispose of equipment;
14. To lobby state and federal governments and their officials as well as private entities to obtain funding for implementation of the MSHCP and employ individuals or entities to conduct such lobbying activities on its behalf; and
15. To exercise all other powers common to the members not specifically mentioned above which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. **REGULAR MEMBERS.** The regular members of the Board shall be the five members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and one member from each incorporated city who is signatory to the Agreement. Written notification of the appointment of a City representative shall be provided to the Clerk of the Board.
- B. **ALTERNATE MEMBERS:**
1. Each member of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors may appoint an alternate member to the RCA Board of Directors and each City may appoint one alternate member to the RCA Board of Directors.
 2. Each regular member and alternate member of a City must hold an elective office on the respective governing body appointing the regular or alternate member.
 3. The Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) may appoint a city council member of a member city to represent the member as an alternate at meetings of the RCA Board or committees. Notice of the alternate appointment shall be made in writing to the Clerk of the Board. In no event shall the same person serve as a city representative and alternate for a BOS member at the same meeting.
 4. In the absence of a regular member, the alternate member shall, if present, participate in a meeting of the Board or committee the same as if the alternate member were the regular member.

ARTICLE IV – TERM, VACANCIES AND COMPENSATION

- A. **TERM.** Regular members and alternate members shall serve on the Board during the term for which they were appointed or until their successor has been appointed or their appointment has been revoked, whichever is earlier. However, a regular or alternate member’s position on the Board shall automatically terminate if and when the term of the elected public office of such regular or alternate member is terminated.
- B. **VACANCIES.** Any vacancy in the office of regular or alternate member, whether because of death, incapacity, resignation, loss of underlying office, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by the appointing authority for such member. When a vacancy occurs, it shall be the duty of the respective Party having the vacancy to promptly inform the Clerk of the Board of the name of the replacement regular or alternate member.

- C. RESIGNATION. Any regular or alternate member may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Clerk of the Board. Such resignation shall be effective at the time specified; acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- D. REMOVAL. Any regular or alternate member may be removed, with or without cause stated, by the authority responsible for his or her appointment.
- E. COMPENSATION. Unless prohibited by law from accepting compensation, each regular and alternate member (when performing the duties of a regular member) of the RCA shall be compensated at the rate of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for any day attending to the business of the RCA, but not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) in any month, along with necessary traveling and personal expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties as authorized by the RCA.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

- A. QUORUM. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and all official acts of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board. Each regular member or alternate member acting in the place of a regular member shall have one vote at meetings of the Board. However, any member of the Board, immediately after a vote of the Board and prior to the start of the next item on the agenda may call for a weighted vote.
- B. WEIGHTED VOTING. For an item to be passed by weighted vote, all of the following requirements shall be met:
 - 1. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, who each shall have one vote;
 - 2. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities, who each shall have one vote; and
 - 3. the item shall be approved by Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities representing a majority of an equal combination of 1) the population of the county living in incorporated areas within the boundaries of the MSHCP Plan area, and 2) the number of acres currently within the Criteria Cells in the incorporated areas as follows:
Banning – 78 acres; Beaumont – 10,108 acres; Calimesa – 3,373 acres; Canyon Lake – 303 acres; Corona – 2,315 acres; Eastvale – 1,024 acres; Hemet – 1,372 acres; Jurupa Valley – 5,039 acres; Lake Elsinore – 14,571 acres; Menifee – 249 acres; Moreno Valley – 2,325

acres; Murrieta – 8,726 acres; Norco – 733 acres; Perris – 3,181 acres; Riverside – 1,217 acres; San Jacinto – 4,581 acres; and Temecula – 3,923 acres; and Wildomar – 4,151 acres. Population data shall be determined through California Department of Finance estimates, adjusted annually.

In addition, the Board may, through resolution, revise the above-referenced number of acres due to the addition of a new member entity or other appropriate adjustments as the Board deems necessary.

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. **ELECTIONS.** The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair at its meeting every December, or as soon thereafter as practical. At least once every three years, the Chair or Vice Chair shall be a regular member of the Board who is a member of the Board of Supervisors. The term of the Chair and Vice Chair shall commence on the first day of the month following the selection, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- B. **NOMINATIONS.** Any member of the RCA may nominate any regular member for an office contemplated in Section A. An individual receiving the majority of the votes for any of the offices shall be deemed to have been elected. Different procedures and requirements apply to the office of treasurer and controller, pursuant to Section E. and the Agreement.
- C. **RESIGNATIONS.** In the event an officer resigns or ceases to be an officer, the Board shall select a replacement therefore at the next regular meeting of the Board, or as soon thereafter as practical.
- D. **ABSENCES.** In the absence or inability of the Chair to act, the Vice Chair shall act as Chair.
- E. **APPOINTMENTS.** The Board shall appoint the treasurer of a member agency to serve as the Treasurer. The Board shall also appoint the finance director of a member agency to serve as the Controller.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. **CHAIR.** The duties of the Chair shall be to:
 - 1. Preside at all meetings of the RCA, provided that the Board, by a majority vote of the members present, may overrule any decision under this Section A.1 by the Chair at or during the meeting;
 - 2. Call special meetings of the RCA when necessary;

3. Appoint ad hoc committees, when necessary, including, without limitation, an Elected Officials Ad Hoc Committee described in the MSHCP.
- B. VICE CHAIR. The duties of the Vice Chair shall be to perform the duties and exercise the power of the Chair during the absence of the Chair.
- C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. The duties of the Executive Director shall be to administer the MSHCP, as defined above, in compliance with the duties and responsibilities set forth in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of the MSHCP, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time. The Executive Director shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Board including, without limitation, the administration of agency contracts. The Executive Director will authorize contracts in compliance with the RCTC/RCA Procurement Policy Manual.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

- A. AGENDA. Matters to be placed on the Agenda for any regular meeting or Committee meeting may be filed with the Executive Director of the RCA by any member of the RCA. The Agenda for each regular or special meeting shall be prepared under the control and direction of the Executive Director after consultation and concurrence by the Board Chair or Vice Chair, if the Chair is not available. The Executive Director shall cause copies of the Agenda to be delivered to each regular and alternate member in compliance with the Brown Act. During a Board or Committee meeting, any member may bring to the Board's attention any item of new business or request for action. Action on any matter of business not listed Agenda shall be deferred until properly listed on the Agenda for a subsequent meeting unless properly added to the Agenda as an item of subsequent need in accordance with Government Code, Section 54954.2. Notwithstanding, the provisions of this section, individual members of the Board may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the RCA at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
- B. REGULAR MEETING. A schedule of regular meetings of the RCA will be adopted by the Board annually. Regular meetings shall be held, to the extent feasible, at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, or at such other location set by the RCA. Regular meetings may be canceled by majority vote of the RCA at a regular or special meeting prior to the meeting to be canceled. A regular meeting may also be canceled by the Chair for lack of a quorum or substantive agenda items. The Executive Director shall endeavor deliver notice of such cancellation to each regular member and alternate member at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the meeting.

- C. SPECIAL MEETINGS. A special meeting of the RCA may be called at any time by the Chair, or in his or her absence by the Vice Chair, or by any four (4) regular members by delivering written notice to the Executive Director and each regular and alternate member. Such notice shall be so delivered at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be transacted at such meeting. Such written notice may be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the Executive Director a written waiver of notice. Such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any regular or alternate member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.
- D. POSTING OF AGENDAS. The RCA shall post agendas of all regular meetings, containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, in accordance with the Brown Act. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the meeting and shall be posted at the County Administration Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, or at another location specified by the Chair that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the RCA website. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on such posted agendas, except as permitted by state law.
- E. RALPH M. BROWN ACT. All meetings of the Board, including without limitation, regular, special and adjourned meetings, shall be called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (commencing with Section 54950 of the California Government Code).
- F. ADDRESSING the RCA ON AGENDA ITEMS. No person shall address the RCA at any meeting until he or she has first been recognized by the Chair. The decision of the Chair to recognize a person may be changed by vote of a majority of the members of the RCA present at the meeting. When addressing the RCA, each individual speaker will be limited to three minutes or less of public testimony on each agenda item. The RCA may, either at the direction of the Chair or by a majority vote of the RCA, waive this three (3) minute time limitation.

ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FORMATION. The following Standing Committees of the RCA are hereby created:
 - 1. The Funding Coordination Committee. This Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board on funding priorities and MSHCP Conservation Area acquisitions. Additionally, this Committee shall

provide a forum to discuss land acquisition priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) and acquisitions by other entities using non-local sources of revenue. It is envisioned that this Committee will meet at least twice annually. The Committee is not intended to address the acquisition of specific properties. The Board shall establish policies under which the Funding Coordination Committee shall make recommendations to the Board. Such policies shall include conflict of interest guidelines for the Committee members. Members of this committee shall consist of the Executive Committee Members, and representatives of the USFWS, and the CDFW. Member Agency Planning Directors shall be invited to participate in the meeting.

2. Reserve Management Oversight Committee. The Reserve Management Oversight Committee (RMOC) shall serve as the intermediary between the Reserve Managers and the decision-making function of the RCA. The Executive Director or designee shall serve as Chair of the RMOC. The RMOC shall be composed of, at a minimum, one representative appointed by each of the following entities: USFWS, CDFW, Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the RCA, and up to five (5) other private or public agencies or entities that own or manage land within the MSHCP Conservation Area.
3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members and have at least two (2) and no more than three (3) representatives representing the County. The Board Chair, Vice Chair, and past Chair, if any, of the RCA shall be members of the Committee. Two members of the Executive Committee shall be selected by the Board at its first meeting in December, or as soon thereafter as practical. The remaining members shall be appointed by the Chair and ratified by the Board. The Executive Committee shall oversee RCA administrative functions, and consider such other matters as delegated to it by the Board. In the event of a vacancy in the Committee, the Chair shall appoint a replacement and said appointment shall be ratified by the Board.

The process for the Board to select two (2) members to the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- a. At the start of the agenda item, Board members may nominate two or more regular members (not alternates) to fill the positions of the Executive Committee. Each nomination must be seconded to qualify that member for the election.

Only those members nominated and seconded shall be part of the selection process set forth below.

- b. If no objections are made, the nominations will be closed when the Chair makes a formal announcement closing the nomination period.
- c. If only two (2) nominations are received, the Chair shall call on the Board of Director's to approve the nomination. If more than fifty (50%) percent of the entire Board votes approve the two (2) nominees, the two (2) nominees shall be elected and the election for the Executive Committee shall be considered complete. If the nominees fail to obtain more than fifty percent (50%) of votes of the entire Board, the process for electing a member to the desired position shall begin again from paragraph 3(a).
- d. If there are more than two nominees, the following steps shall be followed in the order set forth below:
 - (i) The Chair shall call for the Board of Directors to cast two (2) votes, one vote each for two (2) of the nominees. All nominees shall be voted on using a single written ballot. A "written" ballot can be either physical or digital. If two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, those two (2) nominees shall be elected and the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete. If the vote fails to result in one or two nominees receiving more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast, the three (3) nominees with the most votes will be placed in a runoff election, repeating this section 3(d)(i).
 - (ii) The two (2) winning nominees in the runoff election will be selected if each of those two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board. In that case, the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete.
 - (iii) If the runoff election fails to result in two (2) nominees with more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, the two (2) nominees with the most votes will be placed before the Board of Directors for approval.
 - (iv) If the two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, the nominees shall be

elected and the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete.

- (v) If the two (2) nominees placed before the Board of Directors fail to obtain more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, the process for electing the two (2) Executive Committee members shall begin again from Paragraph 3(a), above.
- (vi) If there is a tie in any step in the election process and the next step of the process cannot proceed, then one or more tie-breaking votes will occur in which all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting will be allowed to vote again. The winning nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board to be elected.
- (vii) At any point the Board of Directors may vote to suspend the vote until a subsequent meeting.
- (viii) The tally of all votes taken hereunder shall be read aloud by the Clerk of the Board immediately following the vote. The written ballots whether physical or digital shall be retained by the Clerk of the Board as part of the public record of the meeting.

- 4. Stakeholders Committee. The Stakeholders Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and ratified by the Board. The Committee shall be composed of up to sixteen (16) members, whose members shall be drawn from the following:
 - a. groups representing property owners affected by the MSHCP;
 - b. groups representing environmental interests implicated by the MSHCP; and
 - c. groups representing the building industry within the area affected by the MSHCP.
 - d. Committee members shall not be permitted to appoint alternates. The Committee shall meet when requested to do so by the Chair or Board. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary; however, reasonable efforts shall be made to hold committee meetings at least twice yearly. The Executive Director shall chair the meetings and facilitate discussion. The Stakeholders Committee shall review implementation plans from a stakeholder perspective and perform such other duties as directed by the Board.

- B. **CONTROL AND SUPERVISION.** In the performance of their duties and responsibilities, all Committees of the RCA shall submit all policy matters coming before them to the RCA Board for final consideration, unless otherwise specified by the Board. Committee members shall be appointed on an annual basis.

ARTICLE X – CORPORATE POWERS

- A. **SUCCESSION.** The RCA has perpetual succession and may adopt a seal and alter it at its pleasure.
- B. **LITIGATION.** The RCA may sue and be sued, except as otherwise provided by law, in all actions and proceedings, in all courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction.
- C. **CLAIMS.** All claims for money or damages against the RCA are governed by Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code except as provided therein, or by other statutes or regulations expressly applicable thereto.
- D. **MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES.** The acts of the RCA shall be expressed by motion, resolution, or ordinance. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be as follows: "The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby ordains as follows: "All ordinances shall be signed by the Chair or by the Vice Chair of the RCA.

ARTICLE XI – CONTRACTS

The RCA may make contracts and enter into stipulations of any nature whatsoever either in connection with eminent domain proceedings or otherwise, including but not limited to, contracts and stipulations to indemnify and save harmless, to employ labor, and to do all acts necessary and convenient for the full exercise of the powers authorized by law. The RCA may contract with any Department or Agency of the United States of America, with any public agency (including, but not limited to, the County, WRCOG, CDFW or USFWS), or with any person upon such terms and conditions as the RCA finds is in its best interest.

ARTICLE XII – REIMBURSEMENTS

- A. **PERSONS SUBJECT TO REIMBURSEMENT PROVISIONS.** These Reimbursement Provisions ("Provisions") shall be applicable to all members of the RCA's legislative bodies, as defined in Government Code section 54952, provided such persons receive compensation for actual and necessary RCA expenses ("Official"). Legislative Bodies include, but are not limited, to the Board of Directors, the Funding Coordination Committee,

the Reserve Management Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Stakeholders Committee.

- B. PURPOSE. The purpose of these Provisions is to provide guidelines for the reimbursement of any Official for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Whenever issues of reimbursement arise, the RCA shall adhere to Government Code sections 53232.2 and 53232.3.

C. TRANSPORTATION

1. Use of Personal Vehicle. The RCA shall reimburse for mileage incurred when personal vehicles are used to attend Board and Committee meetings and conferences or other meetings approved by the Board or Executive Director and in furtherance of the RCA's affairs. RCA will reimburse mileage for travel to and from the destination based upon the approved Internal Revenue Service rate in effect at the time of travel.
2. Rentals. The RCA shall reimburse for actual and necessary vehicle rental expenses. The RCA shall only reimburse economy or compact rate vehicles unless (i) such class of vehicle is unavailable; or (ii) such class of vehicles do not accommodate a disability. When an Official rents a vehicle, he or she shall obtain insurance for the vehicle at the RCA's expense.
3. Shuttle, Bus, Taxi, and Public Transportation. Shuttle, bus, taxi, and public transportation may be used between an airport, hotel and conference site whenever it is available. Officials are encouraged to use the most efficient mode of transportation available.
4. Air Travel or Other Common Carrier Transportation. As necessary for the performance of their official duties, Officials may use air travel or other mode of common carrier transportation to and from the destination.

- D. LODGING. Lodging costs shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available. If a group rate is not available, the government rate of the provider of lodging shall be used. If neither the group nor government rates are available, the RCA shall reimburse lodging at a rate not exceeding \$300.00 per night without Board approval. For lodging in high costs cities (e.g., San Francisco, New York, Washington., D.C.), the RCA will reimburse at a rate not exceeding \$490.00 per night without Board approval. Lodging reimbursement rates will be adjusted annually according to the CPI in the applicable metropolitan statistical area.

- E. MEALS. The actual costs of meals incurred while attending conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the RCA's affairs are reimbursable provided the RCA's staff is given a receipt. Meal costs shall be reimbursed at an amount not exceeding the greater of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day or the applicable Internal Revenue Service rate.
- F. PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES NOT REIMBURSABLE. The RCA shall not reimburse the cost of transportation, lodging, meals, or other costs of travel when such costs are of a personal nature incurred in conjunction with the performance of official duties. Personal costs, not reimbursable by the RCA, shall include, but not be limited, to the following: (i) alcoholic beverages; (ii) parking and traffic violations; (iii) entertainment; (iv) services provided by the provider of lodging; and (v) expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, dependent, or traveling companion.
- G. CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS. Officials shall only receive reimbursement of travel, lodging, and meals for conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the RCA's affairs. No other occurrences will be reimbursed.
- H. EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THESE PROVISIONS. Occurrences or expenses which do not fall within these provisions or the Internal Revenue Service reimbursable rates must be approved by the Board in a public meeting before the expense is incurred.
- I. EXPENSE REPORTS. The RCA shall not reimburse any expenses until an expense form is submitted to the Clerk of the Board no later than 45 days of the expenditure. Expense forms shall be accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Furthermore, Officials will be required to provide a brief report on the conference or meeting attended at the next regular meeting of his or her respective legislative body.
- J. CPI INCREASE. The dollar limits referenced herein shall be automatically updated annually pursuant to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

ARTICLE XIII - GOVERNMENT CLAIMS POLICY

- A. The review, rejection, sufficiency and return of written claims shall be governed by the Government Claims Act (Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code) or as otherwise provided by law.
- B. The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority ("RCA") Board of Directors (the "RCA Board") is generally responsible for the handling of claims presented to RCA. However, pursuant to Government Code section 935.4, the RCA Board may delegate its responsibilities of the

Government Claims Act to a RCA staff. The Government Claims Policy acts on this provision by authorizing RCA's Executive Director, or designee, with the ability to perform functions listed herein.

- C. The Executive Director, or designee of the Executive Director, is authorized to do the following in response to a claim presented to the RCA Board:
1. Review the claim;
 2. Determine the sufficiency of the claim pursuant to Government Code section 910.8;
 3. Allow the claim;
 4. Reject the claim;
 5. Allow the claim in part;¹
 6. Compromise the claim;²
 7. Return the claim as untimely; and
 8. Do nothing.
- D. The Executive Director, or designee, may settle claims in the amount of \$50,000 or less after consultation with the General Counsel. The RCA Board must approve all settlements on claims in excess of \$50,000. The Executive Director, or designee, may review and grant or deny an application for late claim relief submitted pursuant to the Government Claims Act. RCA will adhere to Government Claims Act in consideration of late claim applications.
- E. This Government Claims Policy is intended to reflect the requirements set forth in the California Government Claims Act. Because state law is amended from time to time, in the event any law cited herein is amended, modified, changed or omitted, then such law shall govern.
- F. Pursuant to the authority contained in Cal. Gov't Code § 935, and notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in Cal. Gov't Code § 905, all claims against RCA for damages or money, when a procedure for processing such claims is not otherwise provided by State or local laws, shall be presented within the time limitations and in the manner prescribed by Cal. Gov't Code

¹ If RCA determines that the government claim is substantiated but contends the monetary demand is excessive, RCA may allow the claim in part but reject the claim as to the amount demanded. (Gov. Code, § 912.6, subd. (a)(3).)

² If there is a dispute over liability or the amount of the claim, RCA can compromise it. (Gov. Code, § 912.6, subd. (a)(4).)

§§ 910 through 915.2. Such claims shall further be subject to the provisions of Cal. Gov't Code § 945.4 relating to the prohibition of suits in the absence of the presentation of claims and action thereon.

G. This Government Claims Policy provides the guidelines for RCA in responding to a claim, however, a failure to follow this policy shall not serve as a basis for invalidating an action taken by the RCA Board of Directors or the Executive Director, or the designee of the Executive Director, on a particular claim.

H. All responses must be made in writing. RCA must include a proof of mailing so as to properly document its compliance with the statutory deadlines of the Government Claims Act.

1. If RCA determines the claim is insufficient, RCA must provide a written notice of insufficiency. This written notice must provide a specific explanation of the claims defects. A notice of insufficiency must be given within 20 days after the claim's presentation.

2. If RCA rejects a claim, it must provide the following in its written notice of rejection:

Subject to certain exceptions, you have only six months from the date this notice was personally delivered or deposited in the mail to file a court action on this claim. Please refer to Government Code Section 945.6. You may, of course, seek an attorney's advice on this matter. If you plan to consult an attorney, you should do so immediately. Your time for filing an action in federal court may be less than six months.

3. If RCA returns the claim as untimely, the written notice must include the following statements (or statements to the same effect):

"The claim you presented to the (insert title of board or officer) on (indicate date) is being returned because it was not presented within six months after the event or occurrence as required by law. See Sections 901 and 911.2 of the Government Code. Because the claim was not presented within the time allowed by law, no action was taken on the claim.

Your only recourse at this time is to apply without delay to (name of public entity) for leave to present a late claim. See Sections 911.4 to 912.2, inclusive, and Section 946.6 of the Government Code. Under some circumstances, leave to present a late claim will be granted. See Section 911.6 of the Government Code.

You may seek the advice of an attorney of your choice in connection with this matter. If you desire to consult an attorney, you should do so immediately.”

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

- A. **ADOPTION.** These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the RCA by a majority vote.
- B. **PROPOSAL.** Any RCA member may propose a Bylaw amendment. Such proposal shall be in writing and shall be referred to the Chair who shall report the proposed amendment with recommendation to the RCA. All regular members shall receive at least four (4) weeks notice of any amendments to these Bylaws. Notice may be provided on a Board Meeting Agenda of the Board or by separate notice delivered by mail, e-mail, or facsimile to the regular member.

Approved 06/07/04

Updated 03/07/05; Resolution No. 05-01

Updated 09/12/05; Resolution No. 05-07

Updated 12/05/05; Resolution No. 05-10

Updated 03/06/06; Resolution No. 06-01

Updated 04/03/06; Resolution No. 06-02

Updated 05/01/06; Resolution No. 06-03

Updated 09/10/07; Resolution No. 07-06

Updated 12/03/07; Resolution No. 07-11

Updated 10/06/08; Resolution No. 08-015

Updated 03/02/09; Resolution No. 09-001

Updated 03/07/11; Resolution No. 11-002

Updated 01/09/12; Resolution No. 11-008

Updated 06/02/14; Resolution No. 14-004

Updated 11/07/16; Resolution No. 2016-016

Updated 03/01/21; Resolution No. 2021-006

Updated 11/03/25; Resolution No. 2025-014

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORIZATION

- A. **NAME.** The name of this agency shall be the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, hereinafter known as the RCA.
- B. **AUTHORIZATION.** The County of Riverside (“County”) and the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, and Temecula, by that Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated as of January 27, 2004 (“Agreement”) created the RCA for the purpose of acquiring, administering, operating, and maintaining land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for certain rare, threatened, and endangered species covered by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (“MSHCP”). The Agreement was amended on April 7, 2009, to add the Cities of Menifee and Wildomar, on May 5, 2011, to add the City of Eastvale, and on December 5, 2011, to add the City of Jurupa Valley.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, DUTIES & POWERS

- A. **PURPOSE.** The RCA shall acquire, administer, operate, and maintain land and facilities to establish habitat reserves for the conservation and protection of species covered by the MSHCP and to implement the MSHCP after the MSHCP is approved by the County and Cities and appropriate permits are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- B. **DUTIES AND POWERS.** Duties and Powers of the RCA are set forth in local, state, and federal law and the Agreement, as may be amended from time to time. These duties and authorization include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. To make and enter into contracts;
 - 2. To employ agents, consultants, attorneys, and employees;
 - 3. To acquire property, and any interest in property, both real and personal by purchase, gift, option, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, and hold and dispose of such property;

4. To conduct and direct studies and to develop and implement plans to complement, modify, or supplement the MSHCP;
5. To incur debts, liabilities, and obligations;
6. To sue and be sued in its own name;
7. To employ reserve managers and other personnel to operate, maintain, and administer the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
8. To be an applicant, make applications for, and receive grants from governmental and private entities and to participate in State bond issues;
9. To prepare project reports and applications, to qualify for grants, and to enter into grant contracts and to do all other things necessary to comply with State and Federal laws and regulations with respect to grants;
10. To borrow or receive advances of funds from its members or from such other sources as may be permitted by law;
11. To contract with its members and other entities who operate or will operate the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
12. To issue bonds, notes, warrants, and other evidences of indebtedness to finance costs and expenses to carry out the powers of the RCA;
13. To acquire, hold, and dispose of equipment;
14. To lobby state and federal governments and their officials as well as private entities to obtain funding for implementation of the MSHCP and employ individuals or entities to conduct such lobbying activities on its behalf; and
15. To exercise all other powers common to the members not specifically mentioned above which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. **REGULAR MEMBERS.** The regular members of the Board shall be the five members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and one member from each incorporated city who is signatory to the Agreement.

Written notification of the appointment of a City representative shall be provided to the Clerk of the Board.

B. ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

1. Each member of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors may appoint an alternate member to the RCA Board of Directors and each City may appoint one alternate member to the RCA Board of Directors.
2. ~~2.~~ Each regular member and alternate member of a City must hold an elective office on the respective governing body appointing the regular or alternate member.
3. ~~3.~~ The Board of Supervisors ("BOS") may appoint a city council member of a member city to represent the member as an alternate at meetings of the RCA Board or committees. Notice of the alternate appointment shall be made in writing to the Clerk of the Board. In no event shall the same person serve as a city representative and alternate for a BOS member at the same meeting.
4. In the absence of a regular member, the alternate member shall, if present, participate in a meeting of the Board or committee the same as if the alternate member were the regular member.

ARTICLE IV – TERM, VACANCIES AND COMPENSATION

- A. ~~A.~~ **TERM.** Regular members and alternate members shall serve on the Board during the term for which they were appointed or until their successor has been appointed or their appointment has been revoked, whichever is earlier. However, a regular or alternate member's position on the Board shall automatically terminate if and when the term of the elected public office of such regular or alternate member is terminated.
- B. ~~B.~~ **VACANCIES.** Any vacancy in the office of regular or alternate member, whether because of death, incapacity, resignation, loss of underlying office, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by the appointing authority for such member. When a vacancy occurs, it shall be the duty of the respective Party having the vacancy to promptly inform the Clerk of the Board of the name of the replacement regular or alternate member.
- C. **RESIGNATION.** Any regular or alternate member may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Clerk of the Board. Such resignation shall be effective at the time specified; acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

- D. REMOVAL. Any regular or alternate member may be removed, with or without cause stated, by the authority responsible for his or her appointment.
- E. COMPENSATION. Unless prohibited by law from accepting compensation, each regular and alternate member (when performing the duties of a regular member) of the RCA shall be compensated at the rate of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for any day attending to the business of the RCA, but not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) in any month, along with necessary traveling and personal expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties as authorized by the RCA.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

- A. QUORUM. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and all official acts of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board. Each regular member or alternate member acting in the place of a regular member shall have one vote at meetings of the Board. However, any member of the Board, immediately after a vote of the Board and prior to the start of the next item on the agenda may call for a weighted vote.
- B. WEIGHTED VOTING. For an item to be passed by weighted vote, all of the following requirements shall be met:
 - 1. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, who each shall have one vote;
 - 2. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities, who each shall have one vote; and
 - 3. the item shall be approved by Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities representing a majority of an equal combination of 1) the population of the county living in incorporated areas within the boundaries of the MSHCP Plan area, and 2) the number of acres currently within the Criteria Cells in the incorporated areas as follows: *Banning – 78 acres; Beaumont – 10,108 acres; Calimesa – 3,373 acres; Canyon Lake – 303 acres; Corona – 2,315 acres; Eastvale – 1,024 acres; Hemet – 1,372 acres; Jurupa Valley – 5,039 acres; Lake Elsinore – 14,571 acres; Menifee – 249 acres; Moreno Valley – 2,325 acres; Murrieta – 8,726 acres; Norco – 733 acres; Perris – 3,181 acres; Riverside – 1,217 acres; San Jacinto – 4,581 acres; and Temecula – 3,923 acres; and Wildomar – 4,151 acres.* Population data shall be

determined through California Department of Finance estimates, adjusted annually.

In addition, the Board may, through resolution, revise the above-referenced number of acres due to the addition of a new member entity or other appropriate adjustments as the Board deems necessary.

ARTICLE VI~~ARTICLE VI~~ – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. ELECTIONS. The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair at its meeting every December, or as soon thereafter as practical. At least once every three years, the Chair or Vice Chair shall be a regular member of the Board who is a member of the Board of Supervisors. The term of the Chair and Vice Chair shall commence on the first day of the month following the selection, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- B. NOMINATIONS. Any member of the RCA may nominate any regular member for an office contemplated in Section A. An individual receiving the majority of the votes for any of the offices shall be deemed to have been elected. Different procedures and requirements apply to the office of treasurer and controller, pursuant to Section E. and the Agreement.
- C. RESIGNATIONS. In the event an officer resigns or ceases to be an officer, the Board shall select a replacement therefore at the next regular meeting of the Board, or as soon thereafter as practical.
- D. ABSENCES. In the absence or inability of the Chair to act, the Vice Chair shall act as Chair.
- E. APPOINTMENTS. The Board shall appoint the treasurer of a member agency to serve as the Treasurer. The Board shall also appoint the finance director of a member agency to serve as the Controller.

ARTICLE VII~~ARTICLE VII~~ – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. CHAIR. The duties of the Chair shall be to:
 - 1. Preside at all meetings of the RCA, provided that the Board, by a majority vote of the members present, may overrule any decision under this Section A.1 by the Chair at or during the meeting;
 - 2. Call special meetings of the RCA when necessary;

3. Appoint ad hoc committees, when necessary, including, without limitation, an Elected Officials Ad Hoc Committee described in the MSHCP.
- B. VICE CHAIR. The duties of the Vice Chair shall be to perform the duties and exercise the power of the Chair during the absence of the Chair.
- C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. The duties of the Executive Director shall be to administer the MSHCP, as defined above, in compliance with the duties and responsibilities set forth in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of the MSHCP, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time. The Executive Director shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Board including, without limitation, the administration of agency contracts. The Executive Director will authorize contracts in compliance with the RCTC/RCA Procurement Policy Manual.

ARTICLE VIII~~ARTICLE VII~~ – MEETINGS

- A. AGENDA. Matters to be placed on the Agenda for any regular meeting or Committee meeting may be filed with the Executive Director of the RCA by any member of the RCA. The Agenda for each regular or special meeting shall be prepared under the control and direction of the Executive Director after consultation and concurrence by the Board Chair or Vice Chair, if the Chair is not available. The Executive Director shall cause copies of the Agenda to be delivered to each regular and alternate member in compliance with the Brown Act. During a Board or Committee meeting, any member may bring to the Board's attention any item of new business or request for action. Action on any matter of business not listed Agenda shall be deferred until properly listed on the Agenda for a subsequent meeting unless properly added to the Agenda as an item of subsequent need in accordance with Government Code, Section 54954.2. Notwithstanding, the provisions of this section, individual members of the Board may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the RCA at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
- B. REGULAR MEETING. A schedule of regular meetings of the RCA will be adopted by the Board annually. Regular meetings shall be held, to the extent feasible, at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, or at such other location set by the RCA. Regular meetings may be canceled by majority vote of the RCA at a regular or special meeting prior to the meeting to be canceled. A regular meeting may also be canceled by the Chair for lack of a quorum or substantive agenda items. The Executive Director shall endeavor deliver

notice of such cancellation to each regular member and alternate member at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the meeting.

- C. SPECIAL MEETINGS. A special meeting of the RCA may be called at any time by the Chair, or in his or her absence by the Vice Chair, or by any four (4) regular members by delivering written notice to the Executive Director and each regular and alternate member. Such notice shall be so delivered at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be transacted at such meeting. Such written notice may be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the Executive Director a written waiver of notice. Such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any regular or alternate member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.
- D. POSTING OF AGENDAS. The RCA shall post agendas of all regular meetings, containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, in accordance with the Brown Act. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the meeting and shall be posted at the County Administration Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, or at another location specified by the Chair that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the RCA website. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on such posted agendas, except as permitted by state law.
- E. RALPH M. BROWN ACT. All meetings of the Board, including without limitation, regular, special and adjourned meetings, shall be called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (commencing with Section 54950 of the California Government Code).
- F. ADDRESSING the RCA ON AGENDA ITEMS. No person shall address the RCA at any meeting until he or she has first been recognized by the Chair. The decision of the Chair to recognize a person may be changed by vote of a majority of the members of the RCA present at the meeting. When addressing the RCA, each individual speaker will be limited to three minutes or less of public testimony on each agenda item. The RCA may, either at the direction of the Chair or by a majority vote of the RCA, waive this three (3) minute time limitation.

ARTICLE IX~~ARTICLE IX~~ – STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. FORMATION. The following Standing Committees of the RCA are hereby created:

1. The Funding Coordination Committee. This Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board on funding priorities and MSHCP Conservation Area acquisitions. Additionally, this Committee shall provide a forum to discuss land acquisition priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) and acquisitions by other entities using non-local sources of revenue. It is envisioned that this Committee will meet at least twice annually. The Committee is not intended to address the acquisition of specific properties. The Board shall establish policies under which the Funding Coordination Committee shall make recommendations to the Board. Such policies shall include conflict of interest guidelines for the Committee members. Members of this committee shall consist of the Executive Committee Members, and representatives of the USFWS, and the CDFW. Member Agency Planning Directors shall be invited to participate in the meeting.
2. Reserve Management Oversight Committee. The Reserve Management Oversight Committee (RMOC) shall serve as the intermediary between the Reserve Managers and the decision-making function of the RCA. The Executive Director or designee shall serve as Chair of the RMOC. The RMOC shall be composed of, at a minimum, one representative appointed by each of the following entities: USFWS, CDFW, Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the RCA, and up to five (5) other private or public agencies or entities that own or manage land within the MSHCP Conservation Area.
3. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members and have at least two (2) and no more than three (3) representatives representing the County. The Board Chair, Vice Chair, and past Chair, if any, of the RCA shall be members of the Committee. Two members of the Executive Committee shall be selected by the Board at its first meeting in December, or as soon thereafter as practical. The remaining members shall be appointed by the Chair and ratified by the Board. The Executive Committee shall oversee RCA administrative functions, and consider such other matters as delegated to it by the Board. In the event of a vacancy in the Committee, the Chair shall appoint a replacement and said appointment shall be ratified by the Board.

The process for the Board to select two (2) members to the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- a. At the start of the agenda item, Board members may nominate two or more regular members (not alternates) to fill the positions of the Executive Committee. Each nomination must be seconded to qualify that member for the election. Only those members nominated and seconded shall be part of the selection process set forth below.
- b. If no objections are made, the nominations will be closed when the Chair makes a formal announcement closing the nomination period.
- c. If only two (2) nominations are received, the Chair shall call on the Board of Director's to approve the nomination. If more than fifty (50%) percent of the entire Board votes approve the two (2) nominees, the two (2) nominees shall be elected and the election for the Executive Committee shall be considered complete. If the nominees fail to obtain more than fifty percent (50%) of votes of the entire Board, the process for electing a member to the desired position shall begin again from paragraph 3(a).
- d. If there are more than two nominees, the following steps shall be followed in the order set forth below:
 - (i) The Chair shall call for the Board of Directors to cast two (2) votes, one vote each for two (2) of the nominees. All nominees shall be voted on using a single written ballot. A "written" ballot can be either physical or digital. If two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, those two (2) nominees shall be elected and the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete. If the vote fails to result in one or two nominees receiving more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast, the three (3) nominees with the most votes will be placed in a runoff election, repeating this section 3(d)(i).
 - (ii) The two (2) winning nominees in the runoff election will be selected if each of those two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board. In that case, the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete.
 - (iii) If the runoff election fails to result in two (2) nominees with more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board,

the two (2) nominees with the most votes will be placed before the Board of Directors for approval.

- (iv) If the two (2) nominees receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, the nominees shall be elected and the election for Executive Committee shall be considered complete.
- (v) If the two (2) nominees placed before the Board of Directors fail to obtain more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board, the process for electing the two (2) Executive Committee members shall begin again from Paragraph 3(a), above.
- (vi) If there is a tie in any step in the election process and the next step of the process cannot proceed, then one or more tie-breaking votes will occur in which all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting will be allowed to vote again. The winning nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the entire Board to be elected.
- (vii) At any point the Board of Directors may vote to suspend the vote until a subsequent meeting.
- (viii) The tally of all votes taken hereunder shall be read aloud by the Clerk of the Board immediately following the vote. The written ballots whether physical or digital shall be retained by the Clerk of the Board as part of the public record of the meeting.

4. Stakeholders Committee. The Stakeholders Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and ratified by the Board. The Committee shall be composed of up to sixteen (16) members, whose members shall be drawn from the following:

- a. groups representing property owners affected by the MSHCP;
- b. groups representing environmental interests implicated by the MSHCP; and
- c. groups representing the building industry within the area affected by the MSHCP.
- d. Committee members shall not be permitted to appoint alternates. The Committee shall meet when requested to do so by the Chair or Board. The Committee shall meet as

often as necessary; however, reasonable efforts shall be made to hold committee meetings at least twice yearly. The Executive Director shall chair the meetings and facilitate discussion. The Stakeholders Committee shall review implementation plans from a stakeholder perspective and perform such other duties as directed by the Board.

- B. CONTROL AND SUPERVISION. In the performance of their duties and responsibilities, all Committees of the RCA shall submit all policy matters coming before them to the RCA Board for final consideration, unless otherwise specified by the Board. Committee members shall be appointed on an annual basis.

ARTICLE X~~ARTICLE XI~~ – CORPORATE POWERS

- A. SUCCESSION. The RCA has perpetual succession and may adopt a seal and alter it at its pleasure.
- B. LITIGATION. The RCA may sue and be sued, except as otherwise provided by law, in all actions and proceedings, in all courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction.
- C. CLAIMS. All claims for money or damages against the RCA are governed by Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code except as provided therein, or by other statutes or regulations expressly applicable thereto.
- D. MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES. The acts of the RCA shall be expressed by motion, resolution, or ordinance. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be as follows: "The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby ordains as follows: "All ordinances shall be signed by the Chair or by the Vice Chair of the RCA.

ARTICLE XI~~ARTICLE XI~~ – CONTRACTS

The RCA may make contracts and enter into stipulations of any nature whatsoever either in connection with eminent domain proceedings or otherwise, including but not limited to, contracts and stipulations to indemnify and save harmless, to employ labor, and to do all acts necessary and convenient for the full exercise of the powers authorized by law. The RCA may contract with any Department or Agency of the United States of America, with any public agency (including, but not limited to, the County, WRCOG, CDFW or USFWS), or with any person upon such terms and conditions as the RCA finds is in its best interest.

ARTICLE XII ~~ARTICLE XII~~ – REIMBURSEMENTS

- A. PERSONS SUBJECT TO REIMBURSEMENT PROVISIONS. These Reimbursement Provisions (“Provisions”) shall be applicable to all members of the RCA’s legislative bodies, as defined in Government Code section 54952, provided such persons receive compensation for actual and necessary RCA expenses (“Official”). Legislative Bodies include, but are not limited, to the Board of Directors, the Funding Coordination Committee, the Reserve Management Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Stakeholders Committee.
- B. PURPOSE. The purpose of these Provisions is to provide guidelines for the reimbursement of any Official for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Whenever issues of reimbursement arise, the RCA shall adhere to Government Code sections 53232.2 and 53232.3.

C. ~~C.~~ TRANSPORTATION

1. Use of Personal Vehicle. The RCA shall reimburse for mileage incurred when personal vehicles are used to attend Board and Committee meetings and conferences or other meetings approved by the Board or Executive Director and in furtherance of the RCA’s affairs. RCA will reimburse mileage for travel to and from the destination based upon the approved Internal Revenue Service rate in effect at the time of travel.
2. ~~2.~~ Rentals. The RCA shall reimburse for actual and necessary vehicle rental expenses. The RCA shall only reimburse economy or compact rate vehicles unless (i) such class of vehicle is unavailable; or (ii) such class of vehicles do not accommodate a disability. When an Official rents a vehicle, he or she shall obtain insurance for the vehicle at the RCA’s expense.
3. 3. Shuttle, Bus, Taxi, and Public Transportation. Shuttle, bus, taxi, and public transportation may be used between an airport, hotel and conference site whenever it is available. Officials are encouraged to use the most efficient mode of transportation available.
4. ~~4.~~ Air Travel or Other Common Carrier Transportation. As necessary for the performance of their official duties, Officials may use air travel or other mode of common carrier transportation to and from the destination.

- D. ~~D.~~ LODGING. Lodging costs shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available. If a group rate is not available, the government rate of the provider of lodging shall be used. If neither the group nor government rates are available, the RCA shall reimburse lodging at a rate not exceeding \$300.00 per night without Board approval. For lodging in high costs cities (e.g., San Francisco, New York, Washington., D.C.), the RCA will reimburse at a rate not exceeding \$490.00 per night without Board approval. Lodging reimbursement rates will be adjusted annually according to the CPI in the applicable metropolitan statistical area.
- E. ~~E.~~ MEALS. The actual costs of meals incurred while attending conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the RCA's affairs are reimbursable provided the RCA's staff is given a receipt. Meal costs shall be reimbursed at an amount not exceeding the greater of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day or the applicable Internal Revenue Service rate.
- F. ~~F.~~ PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES NOT REIMBURSABLE. The RCA shall not reimburse the cost of transportation, lodging, meals, or other costs of travel when such costs are of a personal nature incurred in conjunction with the performance of official duties. Personal costs, not reimbursable by the RCA, shall include, but not be limited, to the following: (i) alcoholic beverages; (ii) parking and traffic violations; (iii) entertainment; (iv) services provided by the provider of lodging; and (v) expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, dependent, or traveling companion.
- G. ~~G.~~ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS. Officials shall only receive reimbursement of travel, lodging, and meals for conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the RCA's affairs. No other occurrences will be reimbursed.
- H. ~~H.~~ EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THESE PROVISIONS. Occurrences or expenses which do not fall within these provisions or the Internal Revenue Service reimbursable rates must be approved by the Board in a public meeting before the expense is incurred.
- I. ~~I.~~ EXPENSE REPORTS. The RCA shall not reimburse any expenses until an expense form is submitted to the Clerk of the Board no later than 45 days of the expenditure. Expense forms shall be accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Furthermore, Officials will be required to provide a brief report on the conference or meeting attended at the next regular meeting of his or her respective legislative body.

- J. ~~J.~~ CPI INCREASE. The dollar limits referenced herein shall be automatically updated annually pursuant to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

ARTICLE XIII - GOVERNMENT CLAIMS POLICY

- A. The review, rejection, sufficiency and return of written claims shall be governed by the Government Claims Act (Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code) or as otherwise provided by law.
- B. The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority ("RCA") Board of Directors (the "RCA Board") is generally responsible for the handling of claims presented to RCA. However, pursuant to Government Code section 935.4, the RCA Board may delegate its responsibilities of the Government Claims Act to a RCA staff. The Government Claims Policy acts on this provision by authorizing RCA's Executive Director, or designee, with the ability to perform functions listed herein.
- C. The Executive Director, or designee of the Executive Director, is authorized to do the following in response to a claim presented to the RCA Board:
1. Review the claim;
 2. Determine the sufficiency of the claim pursuant to Government Code section 910.8;
 3. Allow the claim;
 4. Reject the claim;
 5. Allow the claim in part;¹
 6. Compromise the claim;²
 7. Return the claim as untimely; and
 8. Do nothing.

¹ If RCA determines that the government claim is substantiated but contends the monetary demand is excessive, RCA may allow the claim in part but reject the claim as to the amount demanded. (Gov. Code, § 912.6, subd. (a)(3).)

² If there is a dispute over liability or the amount of the claim, RCA can compromise it. (Gov. Code, § 912.6, subd. (a)(4).)

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- D. The Executive Director, or designee, may settle claims in the amount of \$50,000 or less after consultation with the General Counsel. The RCA Board must approve all settlements on claims in excess of \$50,000. The Executive Director, or designee, may review and grant or deny an application for late claim relief submitted pursuant to the Government Claims Act. RCA will adhere to Government Claims Act in consideration of late claim applications.
- E. This Government Claims Policy is intended to reflect the requirements set forth in the California Government Claims Act. Because state law is amended from time to time, in the event any law cited herein is amended, modified, changed or omitted, then such law shall govern.
- F. Pursuant to the authority contained in Cal. Gov't Code § 935, and notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in Cal. Gov't Code § 905, all claims against RCA for damages or money, when a procedure for processing such claims is not otherwise provided by State or local laws, shall be presented within the time limitations and in the manner prescribed by Cal. Gov't Code §§ 910 through 915.2. Such claims shall further be subject to the provisions of Cal. Gov't Code § 945.4 relating to the prohibition of suits in the absence of the presentation of claims and action thereon.
- G. This Government Claims Policy provides the guidelines for RCA in responding to a claim, however, a failure to follow this policy shall not serve as a basis for invalidating an action taken by the RCA Board of Directors or the Executive Director, or the designee of the Executive Director, on a particular claim.
- H. All responses must be made in writing. RCA must include a proof of mailing so as to properly document its compliance with the statutory deadlines of the Government Claims Act.
1. If RCA determines the claim is insufficient, RCA must provide a written notice of insufficiency. This written notice must provide a specific explanation of the claims defects. A notice of insufficiency must be given within 20 days after the claim's presentation.
 2. If RCA rejects a claim, it must provide the following in its written notice of rejection:

Subject to certain exceptions, you have only six months from the date this notice was personally delivered or deposited in the mail to file a court action on this claim. Please refer to Government Code Section 945.6. You may, of course, seek an attorney's advice on this matter. If you plan to consult an

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attorney, you should do so immediately. Your time for filing an action in federal court may be less than six months.

3. If RCA returns the claim as untimely, the written notice must include the following statements (or statements to the same effect):

“The claim you presented to the (insert title of board or officer) on (indicate date) is being returned because it was not presented within six months after the event or occurrence as required by law. See Sections 901 and 911.2 of the Government Code. Because the claim was not presented within the time allowed by law, no action was taken on the claim.

Your only recourse at this time is to apply without delay to (name of public entity) for leave to present a late claim. See Sections 911.4 to 912.2, inclusive, and Section 946.6 of the Government Code. Under some circumstances, leave to present a late claim will be granted. See Section 911.6 of the Government Code.

You may seek the advice of an attorney of your choice in connection with this matter. If you desire to consult an attorney, you should do so immediately.”

ARTICLE XIV~~ARTICLE XIII~~ – AMENDMENTS

- A. ADOPTION. These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the RCA by a majority vote.
- B. PROPOSAL. Any RCA member may propose a Bylaw amendment. Such proposal shall be in writing and shall be referred to the Chair who shall report the proposed amendment with recommendation to the RCA. All regular members shall receive at least four (4) weeks notice of any amendments to these Bylaws. Notice may be provided on a Board Meeting Agenda of the Board or by separate notice delivered by mail, e-mail, or facsimile to the regular member.

Approved 06/07/04

Updated 03/07/05; Resolution No. 05-01

Updated 09/12/05; Resolution No. 05-07

Updated 12/05/05; Resolution No. 05-10

Updated 03/06/06; Resolution No. 06-01

Updated 04/03/06; Resolution No. 06-02

Updated 05/01/06; Resolution No. 06-03

Updated 09/10/07; Resolution No. 07-06

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Updated 12/03/07; Resolution No. 07-11
Updated 10/06/08; Resolution No. 08-015
Updated 03/02/09; Resolution No. 09-001
Updated 03/07/11; Resolution No. 11-002
Updated 01/09/12; Resolution No. 11-008
Updated 06/02/14; Resolution No. 14-004
Updated 11/07/16; Resolution No. 2016-016
Updated 03/01/21; Resolution No. 2021-006
Updated 11/03/25; Resolution No. 2025-014

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Summary report: Litera Compare for Word 11.14.1.3 Document comparison done on 10/13/2026 2:07:56 PM	
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Intelligent Table Comparison: Active	
Original DMS: iw://bbklaw-mobility.imanage.work/imanage/1469123/12 - RCA Bylaws revisions.docx	
Modified DMS: iw://bbklaw-mobility.imanage.work/imanage/1469123/13 - RCA Bylaws revisions.docx	
Changes:	
<u>Add</u>	75
Delete	28
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<u>Move To</u>	0
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Table Delete	0
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Table moves from	0
Embedded Graphics (Visio, ChemDraw, Images etc.)	0
Embedded Excel	0
Format changes	0
Total Changes:	103

AGENDA ITEM 8

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	
DATE:	November 2, 2026
TO:	Executive Committee
FROM:	Aaron Gabbe, Regional Conservation Director
THROUGH:	Aaron Hake, Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Request to Oppose SDG&E's Proposed Preliminary Routing Corridor through Southwestern Riverside County and Temecula

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for the Committee to recommend the Board of Directors take the following action:

- 1) Adopt a formal opposed position to San Diego Gas & Electric's proposed preliminary routing corridor for the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project within southwestern Riverside County and the City of Temecula.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) Golden Pacific Powerlink Project (Project) is a proposed 500-kilovolt electric transmission line with tower structures up to 191 feet tall with a Proposed Preliminary Routing Corridor (PPRC) that would run through unincorporated Riverside County and the City of Temecula. The PPRC generally runs parallel to State Route 79 from where it crosses into the Riverside County from San Diego County south of Aguanga, running into and within Temecula Creek west of Anza Road westward to the confluence of Temecula Creek with Murrieta Creek, through the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve and continuing into San Diego County (Attachment 1). An alternative alignment to the PPRC, the South Mountain Alternative runs westward through San Diego County, south of Riverside County, bypassing State Route 79 corridor and the City of Temecula. The South Mountain Alternative runs northwestward of Fallbrook and appears to enter Riverside County west of the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve where it runs westward along the County Line toward Camp Pendleton (Attachment 1).

On May 26, 2026, the Temecula City Council announced its unanimous opposition to the proposed Project, with plans to route the Project through the full width of Temecula, east to west, and beyond (Attachment 2). On June 23, 2026, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved a motion expressing significant concerns with the Project running through Southwest Riverside County and Temecula Valley due to potential wildfire, public safety, environmental, cultural resource, aesthetic, and infrastructure impacts (Attachment 3).

Recognizing the potential for the PPRC to impact the MSHCP conservation strategy and reserve system, on October 8, 2026, the City of Temecula sent a letter to Executive Director Hake,

requesting that the RCA oppose the Golden Pacific Powerlink through Temecula Creek (Attachment 4).

This staff report provides an overview of the proposed project; the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) permitting process; how the proposed project could be permitted for incidental take of candidate, threatened, or endangered species through the state and federal Endangered Species Acts through the Western Riverside Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP); and the potential impacts that the project could have on the integrity of the MSHCP conservation strategy and reserve system.

PROPOSED PROJECT

Beginning in the summer of 2026, SDG&E began holding in-person open houses to share with the public its preliminary plan to develop the Project. According to the Project's website (<https://goldenpacificpowerlink.com/>), the Project is a proposed 500-kilovolt electric transmission line, with towers up to 191 feet all, designed to strengthen California's regional power network and maintain future reliability as the state meets its energy policy goals. The need for the Project was identified by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the state's independent transmission planning authority, as critical new infrastructure needed to reduce congestion, meet the state's energy goals, and enhance the flow of electricity on the statewide grid.

The statewide transmission planning process identified the need for significant new electricity generation and delivery capacity to meet future demand and reliability needs. According to CAISO's 2022–23 Transmission Plan, electricity – regardless of where it is generated – cannot be delivered to major population centers where the demand will be highest without new transmission pathways. Transmission constraints can lead to congestion on the grid, higher costs, and reduced reliability during extreme weather or emergency conditions.

CAISO identified the need for the Project and the general area where the line should go to support grid reliability. SDG&E, which provides energy in San Diego and Orange Counties, is designing the project and refining the early route. State and federal agencies must review and approve the final route.

As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review process associated with SDG&E's application to the CPUC, SDG&E has identified a preliminary routing corridor and a range of potential alternatives for further study. The alternatives being advanced have been identified as feasible and capable of meeting the project objectives established in CAISO's Transmission Plan, while balancing environmental, engineering, and community considerations.

The Project is currently in the mandatory pre-filing consultation and environmental scoping phase. SDG&E has not yet officially filed its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the CPUC for the Project. The Project schedule, posted on SDG&E's

website, indicates that SDG&E will file the proposed project with the CPUC in fall/winter 2026; secure state and federal permitting and approvals from 2026 -2029; begin construction in fall 2029; with new transmission line service beginning in 2032.

The final route has not been approved. The route is being refined through preliminary engineering. SDG&E is currently gathering early community feedback. Input received now helps identify issues that may be studied further as part of the formal environmental review process, which is required before any route is finalized or construction can begin. Ultimately, the CPUC will determine whether the project is approved and, if so, what alignment is authorized.

The CPUC conducts two parallel processes when considering development proposed by a regulated utility: 1) an application review process, in which the CPUC reviews the utility's proposal and considers whether the project is needed and is in the public interest; and 2) an environmental review process pursuant to CEQA. The CPCN application process focuses on utility ratepayer and public benefit issues and is led by the CPUC's assigned commissioner(s) and administrative law judge(s). The CEQA process for utility applications is led by CPUC's Energy Division. The CPUC will use the CEQA document in conjunction with other information prepared for the CPUC's formal record to act on the SDG&E application. Routing alternatives will be evaluated as part of the CEQA process. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal permitting agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. The Project will also be analyzed under other applicable laws, such as the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA).

MSHCP PERMITTING

SDG&E is not a Permittee under the MSHCP and therefore would need to apply to the RCA for MSHCP coverage under the state and ESA as a Participating Special Entity (PSE). Per the Implementing Agreement, "[t]he RCA may grant Take Authorization to a PSE for its activities upon compliance with this section (*of the Implementing Agreement*). The MSHCP Implementing Agreement defines a PSE as "any regional public facility provider, such as a utility company, a public district or agency, that operates and/or owns land within the MSHCP Plan Area and that applies for Take Authorization pursuant to" the Implementing Agreement and MSHCP.

As a utility company, SDG&E may request Incidental Take Authorization by submitting a complete application for the proposed activity to the RCA. The RCA and Wildlife Agencies shall review the application within 30 days of receipt of the complete application. The Implementing Agreement further specifies that "[i]f RCA staff, with the concurrence of the Wildlife Agencies finds that the proposed activity complies with all terms and requirements of the MSHCP, the Permits and this Agreement, is designed and implemented consistent with applicable Criteria if within the Criteria Area and does not compromise the viability of the Permits or the MSHCP Conservation Area, the RCA shall issue a Certificate of Inclusion upon completion or fulfillment of all appropriate requirements as set forth below and shall be deemed a Covered Activity. In the event the proposed activity crosses the MSHCP Conservation Area, RCA staff must make a finding supported by adequate evidence that the activity will result in a biologically equivalent or

superior alternative to the MSHCP Conservation Area prior to issuance of a Certificate of Inclusion.... In the event that the proposed activity does not comply with the terms and requirements of the Permits, the MSHCP and this Agreement, and/or compromises the viability of the MSHCP Conservation Area, RCA and Wildlife Agency staff shall meet with Participating Special Entity representatives to attempt to reach a mutually agreeable solution.”

The PSE would also have to pay fees for its activities.

MSHCP IMPLICATIONS

The Project is in its preliminary stages and SDG&E has not begun the PSE process with the RCA. Therefore, RCA only has publicly available information (available at <https://goldenpacificpowerlink.com/>), which is limited. However, based on the Proposed Preliminary Routing Corridor (PPRC), it is apparent that the PPRC would traverse significant lengths of the Criteria Area where the MSHCP Reserve is being assembled, across existing Additional Reserve Lands, Public/Quasi-Public Lands, and virtually the entire length of Constrained Linkage-24 in Temecula Creek and the entire length of the portion of Constrained Linkage-14 that traverses Temecula Creek (Attachment 5). The proposed width of the corridor through western Riverside County and the City of Temecula, and the extent of vegetation management that will be needed within the corridor, is not known. The amount of vegetation that would need to be cleared and managed year-round, however, particularly within Temecula Creek, may substantially affect habitat for Covered Species and severely degrade the integrity of the ecological functions and values that Temecula Creek provides as a Constrained Linkage.

Based on the PPRC, the RCA estimates that of the approximate 25 miles of the PPRC that would run through western Riverside County and the City of Temecula, 14 miles would cut through the Criteria Area (the area where the MSHCP reserve is being assembled) (Attachment 5), including 4 miles of MSHCP-protected Additional Reserve Lands and 1 mile of Public-Quasi Public Reserve Land. The PPRC would run within the Temecula Creek bed for 5 miles that comprises Constrained Linkages-14 and -24, from west of Anza Road to the confluence of Temecula Creek and Murrieta Creek west of Interstate 15.

The MSHCP requires that if Covered Activities impact land described by the MSHCP for conservation, Additional Reserve Lands, or PQP lands, that it must be replaced with land with equal or superior benefit to Covered Species and that at least as much habitat (in area) must be replaced. While suitable replacement land can be located and protected to replace some habitats (e.g., grasslands), the unique habitat functions and values provided by a creek corridor such as Temecula Creek, are difficult, if not impossible, to replace. The PPRC runs through a long creek corridor which has habitat values and functions (e.g., movement habitat for mountain lion, breeding and foraging habitat for covered riparian bird species) that likely cannot be replaced.

Constructing and maintaining a transmission corridor in the PPRC could threaten the integrity of the MSHCP conservation strategy. The MSHCP reserve is the primary component of the conservation strategy and is mitigation for the permitted impacts allowed by the MSHCP Permits.

Damaging or threatening the integrity of the MSHCP conservation strategy threatens the integrity of the MSHCP Permits.

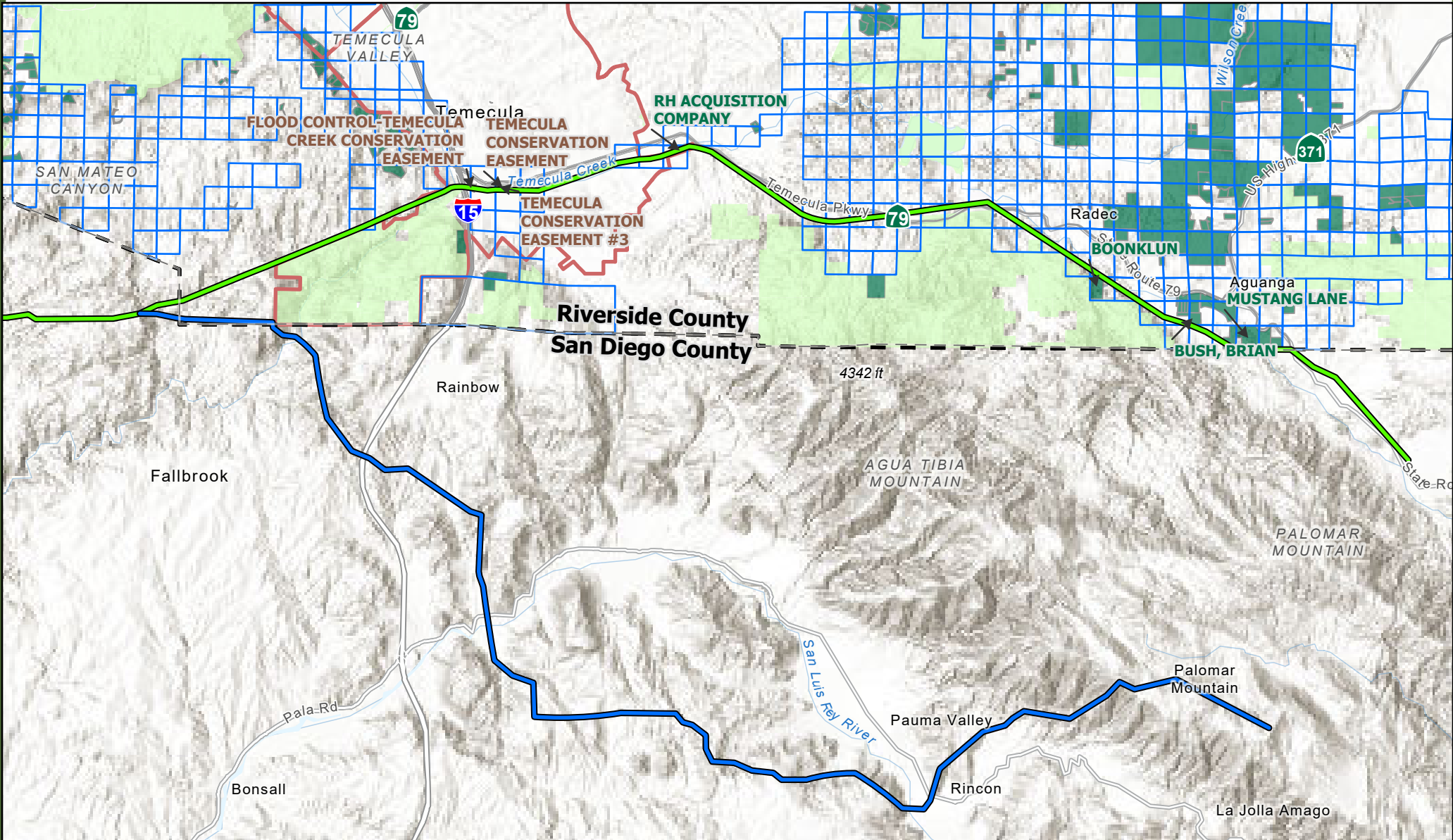
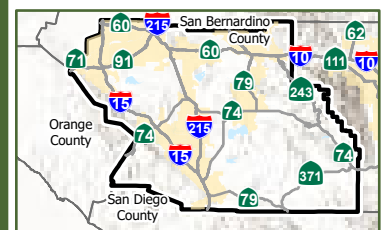
MSHCP Permits are central to the economy, communities, and natural environment of western Riverside County cannot be understated. The MSHCP Permits provide Incidental Take Authorization under the state Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for western Riverside County, the 18 cities within western Riverside County, Riverside County agencies, and State agencies. The Permits extend implementation of the state and federal ESA to the local jurisdictions through implementation of the MSHCP, which for the last 22 years has streamlined ESA permitting for over 105,000 acres of infrastructure and development, boosting the region's economy, providing mitigation for biological impacts for the 146 Covered Species under CEQA, and protecting open space values for the region's communities for future generations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for the Executive Committee to recommend to the Board adopt a formal opposed position to San Diego Gas & Electric's PPRC for the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project within southwestern Riverside County and the City of Temecula and has no fiscal impact.

Attachments:

- 1) Map of Golden Pacific Powerlink Routes.
- 2) City of Temecula letter to SDG&E.
- 3) Supervisor Chuck Washington and Supervisor Karen Spiegel: Golden Pacific Powerlink Project – County Position and Direction Regarding Proposed Transmission Line Alignment Through Southwestern Riverside County.
- 4) Letter to Aaron Hake, Executive Director, from the City of Temecula: Request for RCA Opposition to Golden Pacific Powerlink Through Temecula Creek.
- 5) Map showing overlap of Golden Pacific Powerlink Preliminary Route with MSHCP cores and linkages.



Powerlink Project

- Preliminary Route
- South Mountain Alternative

MSHCP Conserved Additional Reserve Lands

- Conserved Lands (Fee Title)
- Conservation Easements (CE)

MSHCP Conserved Public Quasi-Public Lands

- Criteria Cells
- Cities

CITY OF TEMECULA AGENDA REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Aaron Adams, City Manager

DATE: May 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Receive and File Presentation from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Regarding the Golden Pacific Powerlink Transmission Project and Provide General Direction Regarding the Same

PREPARED BY: Betsy Lowrey, Assistant to the City Manager

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council receive and file a presentation from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) regarding the Golden Pacific Powerlink Transmission Project, including 500-kilovolt electric transmission lines and tower/pole structures proposed through the City of Temecula, and provide general direction regarding the same.

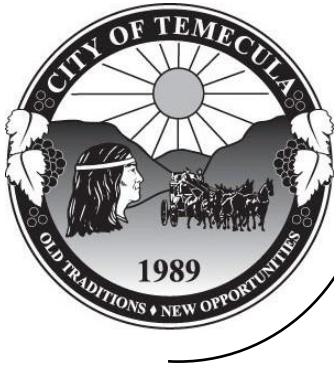
BACKGROUND: San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) plans to build, own, and operate 500-kilovolt electric transmission lines and tower/pole structures along a preliminary route that is proposed through the City of Temecula. Their project is branded as the Golden Pacific Powerlink.

SDG&E is currently conducting public outreach, and has hosted “virtual open houses” on May 12 and May 14 to share information with the general public about their Golden Pacific Powerlink project. SDG&E was invited to present information about their project, including the 500-kilovolt electric transmission lines and tower/pole structures proposed through the City of Temecula, to the City Council on May 26. SDG&E indicated they are unavailable and requested exploring a later date. Should SDG&E not be able to reconsider their availability for a presentation on May 26, staff will reach out to SDG&E to set a new date. In the interim, rather than delay presenting information about this proposed significant project to the full City Council, SDG&E’s website is accessible online at <https://sdge.com/goldenpacific> for review, and outreach materials provided to the City by SDG&E are attached for the City Council to receive and file, and provide general direction regarding same.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SDG&E postcard mailed to addresses near the project
2. SDG&E Public Outreach Material – Received 4-9-2026
3. SDG&E Public Outreach Material – Received 4-20-2026

More information is online at <https://sdge.com/goldenpacific>



City of Temecula

City Council/City Manager

41000 Main Street • Temecula, CA 92590

Phone (951) 694-6444 • TemeculaCA.gov

June 4, 2026

Jeff Billinton
Director of Transmission Infrastructure Planning
California Independent System Operator
250 Outcropping Way
Folsom, CA 95630

Kevin Geraghty
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Safety Officer
SDG&E
8330 Century Park Court, CP32C
San Diego, CA 92123

Erica Martin
Director of Project Development
SDG&E
8330 Century Park Court, CP32C
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: Golden Pacific Powerlink Project

Dear Mr. Billinton, Mr. Geraghty, and Ms. Martin:

Thank you for attending the publicly noticed Temecula City Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, to present information about the extra-high-voltage 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and tower structures proposed through the City of Temecula and beyond, known as the Golden Pacific Powerlink project (Project), and to answer questions from our elected officials. Hundreds of people attended this meeting, filling every chair in the Council Chambers, and the overflow areas, including the Conference Center and the outside patio. After hearing testimony from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and California Independent System Operator (CAISO) representatives, as well as from the public, the City Council expressed its unanimous and unequivocal opposition to the proposed Project.

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDGE)
California Independent System Operator (CAISO)
Re: Golden Pacific Powerlink Project
June 4, 2026
Page 2

This letter summarizes many, but not all, of the questions, comments, and concerns that the City and members of the public expressed at that meeting about the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink Project. The City requests SDG&E accept this letter as part of its obligation to identify impacts of the Project for the scope of an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). In no way does this letter provide all issues, concerns, and comments expressed at the May 26, 2026 public meeting. Instead, this letter is intended only as a high-level summary of concerns expressed.

In addition, the City Council also had several questions that SDG&E and the CAISO representatives at the meeting were unable to answer, but promised follow-up responses. The City hereby formally requests that SDG&E and CAISO respond in writing to those questions. The full broadcast of the meeting can be reviewed at the following link, starting at minute 35:35:

https://youtu.be/itgogex_ut4?si=DF7iAlgFZnUUekTm&t=2139

General Comments

The Project is comprised of 500-kV extra-high-voltage transmission lines with tower structures up to 191 feet tall that San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) plans to route east-west through the full width of the southern portion of Temecula within the sensitive Temecula Creek corridor and beyond. This large-scale industrial Project will ruin the picturesque views and identity of "Southern California Wine Country," cause permanent impacts on the residents of a well-established, vibrant destination city, and irreversibly destroy a highly sensitive, environmentally and culturally rich corridor.

CAISO and SDG&E admitted at the public meeting that the cost of the proposed Project is the top factor driving the decision to place the route directly through the City of Temecula. This decision prioritizes profit margins over the health, safety, and well-being of hundreds of thousands of residents, visitors, and businesses within and adjacent to the City of Temecula. The proposed route shows no consideration for the lifelong and generational consequential impacts to families and children whose lives will be negatively affected by SDG&E's high-voltage transmission lines looming over their homes, schools, businesses, and places of worship along Temecula Creek.

SDG&E's large-scale high voltage transmission Project will traverse miles of homes, multiple playgrounds and parks, trails, schools (including preschools), businesses, and more, and is unmistakably causing severe distress to a large population of households and parents, who are weighing concerns that range from potential health risks due to permanently elevated EMF levels from high-voltage transmission lines and structures, home devaluations, continuous buzzing noises, loss of viewshed, and extreme wildfires, among other dangers. It will also disrupt and eliminate some of the most significant habitat and wildlife corridors in Southern California.

Lack of Public Notice and Participation

As shown on SDG&E's own presentation slides, the Project is already in the fourth of five stages. Only now, after CAISO's 2022-2023 Transmission Planning process was initiated in February 2022, after the policy need for a 500-kV transmission project to serve the LA Basin and San Diego-Imperial Valley areas was first identified by CAISO in November 2022, after the Imperial Valley-North of SONGS 500-kV Line and Substation was proposed by CAISO in the Draft Plan released in April 2023, after the Project was adopted by the CAISO Board in its 2022-2023 Transmission Plan in May 2023, after CAISO solicited for construction bids for the Project in June 2023, after CAISO awarded the project construction bid to Horizon West Transmission (Horizon) in April of 2024 (announced in May 2024), and after Horizon transferred the transmission line portion of the project to SDG&E sometime in 2025, has the public finally been provided notice that this Project was even being contemplated, much less a route through the City of Temecula proposed. The City was first notified of the proposed Project and the route through Temecula in April 2026, just over one month ago.

The City further questions why CAISO selected the only route (of four successful bids) that goes through the urbanized area of Temecula, impacting a significant population, as their top choice, when all the other bids were mapped through non-urban, primarily open-space lands, including SDG&E's own proposed route for constructing the Project. CAISO admitted in awarding the transmission project that "Horizon West proposed a route that would traverse an urban area. [CAISO] understands that routing transmission facilities in urban areas poses a risk of public opposition, which can negatively impact budget and schedule risk." Yet it decided to choose the route through the City of Temecula, anyway, noting that there were no "material differences" between the routes. and Horizon had "substantial float that would be available in the case of any delays to secure the necessary land rights through the urban area." SDG&E continues to insist that the route is preliminary and planning is just beginning, but the record

indicates that CAISO awarded a project that relied on a route through Temecula, failed to provide any opportunity for the City or the public to participate in that decision, and now expects SDG&E to complete that project as proposed by Horizon.

It is deeply troubling that CAISO selected Temecula as the route for one of the largest 500-kV transmission lines in California over two years ago, and we understand SDG&E was aware of this at that time. This raises serious notice, disclosure, and transparency concerns. For over two years, the City of Temecula and the people who will be impacted by this Project have been completely left out of the discussion, referred to merely as a potential "delay" that could "negatively impact budget and scheduling" of the Project. Our City deserves and expects better from CAISO and SDG&E.

Alternatives

To date, CAISO, Horizon, and SDG&E have all focused their intention and plans on the Temecula route without any effort to identify alternative routes as they are required to do under both the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. While arguably your entities have already violated the requirement to avoid contractual and financial commitments made before environmental review is complete, the City expects SDG&E to fully abide by its lawful responsibility to do a comprehensive alternatives analysis of fully feasible routes that avoid running this Project through the City of Temecula.

Cultural Impacts

With profound importance, as Pechanga's closest neighbor, the City of Temecula strongly supports the Pechanga Tribe and warns SDG&E not to disregard the Tribe's initial statement, in which Pechanga unambiguously expressed grave concerns about how the proposed route would impact their ancestral cultural resources.

Extreme Fire Risk

SDG&E's large-scale high-voltage power lines and structures are proposed through and adjacent to parts of Temecula's highest fire-severity concerns, including Temecula Creek, where, unlike vast open-space areas, the Temecula Creek serves as a wildland-urban interface surrounded on both sides by dense populations, where fires have ignited many times.

As an example, in August of 2025, the Samantha Fire in Temecula Creek required swift action by firefighters, including the evacuation of a preschool bordering the Creek, with neighboring residents warned to evacuate. The Samantha Fire (and all the other fires in Temecula Creek) could have been disastrous under high-powered 500-kV towers and transmission lines, which impede response times among other life-threatening dangers, as wildfires can grow quickly while fire crews wait for utility companies to arrive on scene to ensure the area is de-energized and safe before any direct ground or air suppression tactics begin. Research shows that even de-energized 500-kV lines can still carry voltages that pose shock and fire hazards. Community members have provided photos documenting the low-flying firefighting techniques used to stop various fires in the Creek, which would be impossible with 191-foot-tall structures and transmission lines in their way.

SDG&E is being cavalier about fire risk by not disclosing facts like fire, smoke, and heat act as conductors to uninsulated 500-kV transmission lines, causing electrical arcs from these lines to the ground, so firefighters must follow strict mandated safety protocols, which delay fire suppression. This delay is a serious concern in a populated area within a high-wind corridor like Temecula. Likewise, dropping water and fire retardant across energized transmission lines creates a conductive path that can cause massive electricity arcs, posing a severe threat to helicopters and aircraft.

It's extremely misleading for SDG&E to claim that 500-kV high-voltage transmission lines, on their own, do not pose a significant wildfire risk, particularly when the California Public Utilities Commission has repeatedly stated otherwise. Make no mistake—these proposed lines pose a significant and real wildfire risk to Temecula.

In 2013, 500-kV transmission lines ignited and burned over 11,000 acres of wilderness in Tehama County after entrapping a bouquet of metallic balloons. This incident became an impetus for California's phased prohibition of metallic balloons, which will take full effect in 2031.

In stark contrast to the unpopulated area burned by the Deer Fire in Tehama County, SDG&E's 500-kV lines are planned in Temecula's high-fire, environmentally sensitive vegetated terrain immediately adjacent to highly populated neighborhoods where drones, kites, balloons with strings, radio-controlled flying toys, balls, and other objects are flown daily and would easily stray into the lines by the wind. Temecula turns into a wind tunnel most afternoons; we've even seen patio umbrellas and easy-ups take flight. While metallic balloons will be phased out, there are vast lightweight fly-away objects

that are conductive to SDG&E's planned 500-kV high voltage uninsulated overhead lines and structures, which threaten destructive fires to Temecula homes and businesses. Objects do not even need to touch 500-kV transmission lines or towers due to the high voltage that it can arc, or jump, from power lines. This vulnerability underscores the urgent need to reroute this Project away from Temecula's wildland-urban interface and populated community.

Southern California Wine Country

SDG&E's proposed industrial Project threatens to undermine the scenic beauty of Southern California Wine Country and its status as a premier, world-class destination renowned for its natural charm and cultural heritage. Temecula Valley faces irreversible damage to our cherished aesthetic landscape—crucial to attracting tourists and sustaining our vibrant economy.

An important part of the Southern California Wine Country brand is Temecula Valley's identity as a hot air balloon community, drawing visitors from around the globe. It is terrifying to imagine the proposed massive wall of industrial high-voltage towers and wires spanning Temecula is planned by SDG&E to share the same space where Temecula's hot air balloons decorate our skies at sunrise. Hot air balloons in Temecula are guided by the early morning wind and are known to land in Temecula Creek, and cannot co-exist with SDG&E's Project. Hot air balloons are a cherished and vital aspect of Temecula's thriving tourism industry, offering a unique experience to enjoy the breathtaking views and scenic vistas of wine country and beyond, and a beautiful, peaceful sight for spectators and residents from the ground. Neither CAISO nor SDG&E took this treasured tradition and important trade for our area into account in proposing this route through Temecula.

Property Values

SDG&E was unable to answer questions regarding how extra high-voltage transmission lines will affect property values in the City and neighboring areas. The City is already receiving concerns from residents that they are encountering issues with disclosing the proposed Project and suffering property losses as a result. SDG&E admitted that this was not something that they typically had dealt with, but rather solely the costs of right-of-way and reimbursing landowners for the purchase of easements. These are significantly different issues and of great concern to the people along and adjacent to the proposed route. How does SDG&E intend to compensate our residents for the loss of their property values when their homes are suddenly located up against 20-story-high, buzzing, EMF-generating, garish high-voltage power lines?

Alternative Clean Reliable Resilient Energy

California and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have the innovative capacity to pursue cleaner, decentralized, reliable, resilient, and more affordable modern energy solutions that safeguard the environment and our communities—like smart grids, flexible AC transmission systems, distributed energy resources, and a myriad of emerging technologies that reduce both grid congestion and reliance on traditional, costly long-distance industrial towers and powerlines. The City of Temecula will urge the CPUC not to approve SDG&E's outdated, oversized, large-scale, high-voltage industrial structures and transmission lines, which have far-reaching impacts that disrespect communities, disparage the environment, and disregard sustainable progress. Temecula leads by example. One of Temecula's renewable power sources is our 10,000-module photovoltaic (PV) site, which powers parts of public facilities in the cities of Temecula and Lake Elsinore, displacing carbon dioxide equivalent emissions comparable to removing 971 cars from the road each year.

Summary

This large-scale, hazardous industrial Project is fraught with permanent and life-altering negative impacts on a vast population including generations to come, and should not be the route when alternative solutions are more resilient, reliable, and significantly less impactful.

It is our hope that SDG&E upholds its purported number one Core Value, listed on its website to "do the right thing," which ties into SDG&E's overarching mission: to improve lives and communities. Should SDG&E continue with its plan to route this Project through Temecula, it will instead destroy countless lives and communities.

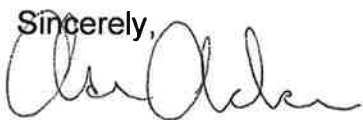
At the public meeting on May 26, the City Council granted me broad authority to take actions necessary to successfully oppose SDG&E's proposed Project based on information known to the City at this time, and to periodically bring forward additional information to the City Council as appropriate, including a formal Resolution of Opposition for adoption. As directed by the City Council, I am employing all appropriate City assets including, but not limited to, the expertise of our knowledgeable, accomplished, experienced legal team and staff, alongside additional legal, skilled and technical consultants, advisors, and experts where needed, to oppose this proposed Project through Temecula.

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Re: Golden Pacific Powerlink Project
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The City of Temecula stands firmly in alliance with the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce, Visit Temecula Valley, the Temecula Valley Wine Growers Association, the Old Town Temecula Association, Temecula Valley Hospital, the Southern California Wine Country Economic Development Coalition, the Southwest Riverside County Association of Realtors and other organizations that have issued, and plan to issue, statements in opposition of this Project, along with concerned residents, businesses and other local, county, state, and federal elected representatives and governments.

As demonstrated at the May 26, 2026 meeting, the commitment of the Temecula City Council and the community to oppose SDG&E's Golden Pacific Powerlink Project is unwavering. The City of Temecula will mobilize all evidence and every legal argument and legal remedy available to defend our community from this dangerous and economically devastating Project. We refuse to let CAISO and SDG&E's proposal erode the health, safety, and well-being of our community or the character and economic vitality that define Temecula Valley.

Sincerely,



Aaron Adams
City Manager

cc: Mark Macarro, Chairman, Pechanga Band of Indians
and the Pechanga Tribal Council
Temecula City Council
Scott B. Crider, President, SDG&E
and the Management Team
Jeffrey W. Martin, Chairman of the Board, CEO, and President, SEMPRA
and the Board of Directors, and the Executive Leadership Team
Joseph Eto, Chair, California ISO,
and the Board of Governors
Elliot Mainzer, President and Chief Executive Officer, California ISO
and the Executive Management Team
John Reynolds, President, California Public Utilities Commission
and the CPUC Commissioners
Leuwam Tesfai, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.5
(ID # 30672)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

FROM : SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON AND SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON AND SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL:
Golden Pacific Powerlink Project – County Position and Direction Regarding Proposed
Transmission Line Alignment Through Southwest Riverside County. District 3, 2 [Total Cost -
\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a formal County position expressing significant concerns regarding the preliminary alignment of San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink Project through Southwest Riverside County and the Temecula Valley due to potential wildfire, public safety, environmental, cultural resource, aesthetic, and infrastructure impacts;
2. Direct the Executive Office to draft a letter(s) detailing the specific concerns and authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter(s);
3. Direct the Executive Office, in coordination with County Counsel, the Riverside County Fire Department, and other appropriate County departments, to actively engage in SDG&E's pre-filing planning process and subsequent California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings;
4. Direct the Executive Office to coordinate closely with affected Tribal governments, including but not limited to the Pechanga Band of Indians and other Luiseño tribal governments, as well as the City of Temecula and other affected local jurisdictions, to identify concerns, sensitive resources, and potential alternative alignments;
5. Direct the Riverside County Fire Department, in coordination with other appropriate County departments and agencies, to prepare or commission a technical wildfire and public safety analysis evaluating the proposed corridor's potential impacts, including wildfire ignition risks, wind-driven fire behavior, wildland-urban interface conflicts, emergency response considerations, evacuation concerns, and impacts to aerial firefighting operations;
6. Direct the Executive Office and County Counsel to develop a comprehensive administrative record documenting County concerns regarding the project, including but not limited to wildfire risks, environmental impacts, cultural resource impacts, public safety considerations, infrastructure constraints, and alternative route considerations;
7. Direct the Executive Office and County Counsel to formally request from SDG&E complete route mapping, shapefiles, engineering and planning assumptions, feasibility analyses, route-selection criteria, environmental studies, land-use data, and detailed justification supporting the proposed alignment through Southwest Riverside County;
8. Direct the Executive Office and County Counsel to engage with CPUC staff to ensure County concerns are incorporated into the environmental review and analysis process

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

and to advocate for a thorough evaluation of alternative alignments that avoid or minimize impacts to Riverside County communities and resources; and

9. Direct the Executive Office to return to the Board with periodic updates regarding project developments, stakeholder coordination efforts, and recommended County actions as the project advances through the regulatory review process.

ACTION:Policy

 Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair	 Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Supervisor 2nd District
6/18/2026	6/18/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	25/26

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is currently evaluating the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project, a proposed 145-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line extending from the Imperial Valley Substation to a planned North of SONGS Substation in Orange County. Preliminary routing information indicates that one potential alignment may cross portions of Southwest Riverside County, including the Temecula Valley.

According to information provided by SDG&E, the project remains in the early planning stages and significant aspects of the proposed alignment, supporting studies, and route analyses have not yet been finalized. SDG&E has acknowledged that certain mapping and land-use information used during initial outreach efforts remains incomplete. The proposed corridor has raised substantial concerns among local agencies, residents, and Tribal governments due to its potential impacts on communities, environmentally sensitive lands, cultural resources, transportation corridors, and public safety. Particular concern exists regarding the introduction of large-scale transmission infrastructure within areas deemed by the State of California as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, significant wildland-urban interface development, sensitive habitat connectivity corridors, and areas of cultural importance to Tribal communities.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) has identified the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project as a policy-driven transmission project intended to facilitate California's clean energy objectives. Because the project is policy-driven rather than reliability-driven, there remains an opportunity during the planning and regulatory review process to evaluate reasonable alternatives, including alternative routes and design modifications that may reduce impacts to local communities and resources.

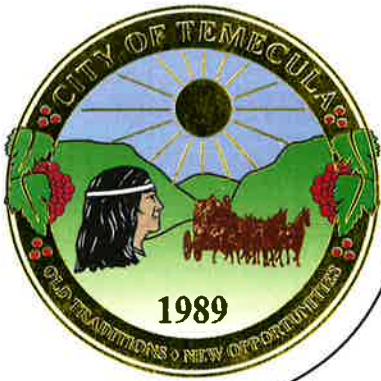
Although the County does not possess direct authority over transmission line placement, Riverside County has a significant interest in protecting public safety, preserving environmental and cultural resources, maintaining critical infrastructure planning flexibility, and ensuring meaningful engagement with affected communities and Tribal governments. Early participation in the planning process is essential to ensure that County concerns are appropriately considered by SDG&E and the CPUC before a formal application is filed.

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Adoption of a formal County position and direction to staff will allow Riverside County to proactively engage in the project review process, coordinate with affected stakeholders, develop a robust administrative record, and advocate for alternatives that avoid or substantially reduce adverse impacts to Riverside County residents, communities, and resources.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with adoption of this item. Any future costs associated with technical studies, consultant services, or participation in regulatory proceedings will be brought back to the Board for consideration, as needed.



City of Temecula

41000 Main Street ■ Temecula, CA 92590
(951) 694-6416 ■ Fax (951) 694-6499 ■ TemeculaCA.gov

October 8, 2026

Via Email & First-Class Mail

Aaron Hake

Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

**Subject: Request for RCA Opposition to Golden Pacific Powerlink
Through Temecula Creek**

Dear Aaron:

The City of Temecula respectfully requests that the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) formally oppose the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink alignment through Temecula Creek, one of the most environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant corridors in Western Riverside County.

The proposed 500 kV transmission line, with massive steel towers or poles reaching nearly 200 feet and high-voltage power lines (with foundations up to 60 feet deep) spanning our most sensitive natural creek corridor, represents the largest and most destructive industrial project ever proposed within the City of Temecula's boundaries, permanently transforming Temecula Creek, threatening irreplaceable environmental and cultural resources, and imposing lasting consequences on the environment.

This route travels north from San Diego County into Riverside County, through the environmentally sensitive Temecula Creek corridor, only to return south into San Diego County. The City was informed that the proposed route that jots up to Riverside County was selected based on cost and efficiency, with environmental impacts left for subsequent evaluation. Simply put, Riverside County was deemed cheaper, without accounting for environmental or other significant impacts.

The following are just a few examples of the many environmental resources within Temecula Creek threatened by the proposed alignment through the Creek. This list is not exhaustive and does not address numerous other concerns, including watershed, geology, liquefaction, economic, cultural, and significant community impacts on our region. Instead, it provides a brief overview of the corridor's ecological significance.

1. **MSHCP Conservation Lands and Criteria Cells:** Temecula Creek contains multiple MSHCP Criteria Cells specifically identified for permanent conservation including existing conserved habitat and areas designated for future reserve assembly. Conserved lands and lands targeted for future conservation must be protected. The unique geographic location and ecological function of these lands cannot simply be recreated through mitigation elsewhere. Impacts to these areas threaten decades of regional conservation planning and investment.
2. **Designated Wildlife Linkages:** The adopted MSHCP identifies Proposed Constrained Linkages along Temecula Creek. These corridors provide essential habitat connectivity and wildlife movement functions. Their geographic role in connecting habitat areas cannot simply be relocated or replicated elsewhere.
3. **Santa Ana–Palomar Mountains Wildlife Connection:** Temecula and Pechanga Creeks represent Southern California's wildlife connection between the coastal Santa Ana Mountains and the inland Palomar and Peninsular Ranges. Maintaining this regional connection is a central objective of the MSHCP.
4. **Mountain Lion Survival and Genetic Diversity:** The MSHCP specifically identifies this corridor as movement habitat for mountain lions and bobcats and recognizes its importance in reducing the risk of isolation of the Santa Ana Mountains mountain lion population. Preserving this connection is essential to supporting genetic exchange and the long-term viability of this vulnerable population.
5. **Sensitive Riparian and Wetland Ecosystems:** The adopted MSHCP identifies Temecula Creek as an important conservation corridor supporting riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats for numerous sensitive and protected species, including least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, western pond turtle, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, and arroyo chub. Protection of these habitats, floodplain processes, water

Aaron Hake
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
October 8, 2026
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quality, and wildlife connectivity is fundamental to the MSHCP's conservation objectives.

6. **Decades of Conservation Investments:** Publicly funded habitat acquisitions, permanent conservation easements, protected open space, and significant investments in wildlife crossings along Interstate 15 reflect decades of coordinated regional conservation efforts.

The RCA safeguards the MSHCP and its conservation network not only protects individual parcels but preserves the ecological connections between them. Introducing Extra High Voltage Transmission industrial towers, poles and wires with permanent corona crackling noises and habitat removal through these protected and designated conservation areas directly challenges that purpose.

The City of Temecula is not opposing regional energy reliability or infrastructure investment. Rather, we are asking that such investments, particularly those that will not directly benefit our region, be responsibly located, with meaningful consideration of the irreplaceable resources they would affect.

We respectfully request that the RCA formally oppose the Golden Pacific Powerlink alignment through Temecula Creek and advocate for alternatives that avoid critical conservation lands and wildlife linkages.

The City of Temecula looks forward to working with the RCA to protect the environmental resources that generations of regional conservation efforts have sought to preserve.

Sincerely,



Mayor
Jessica Alexander

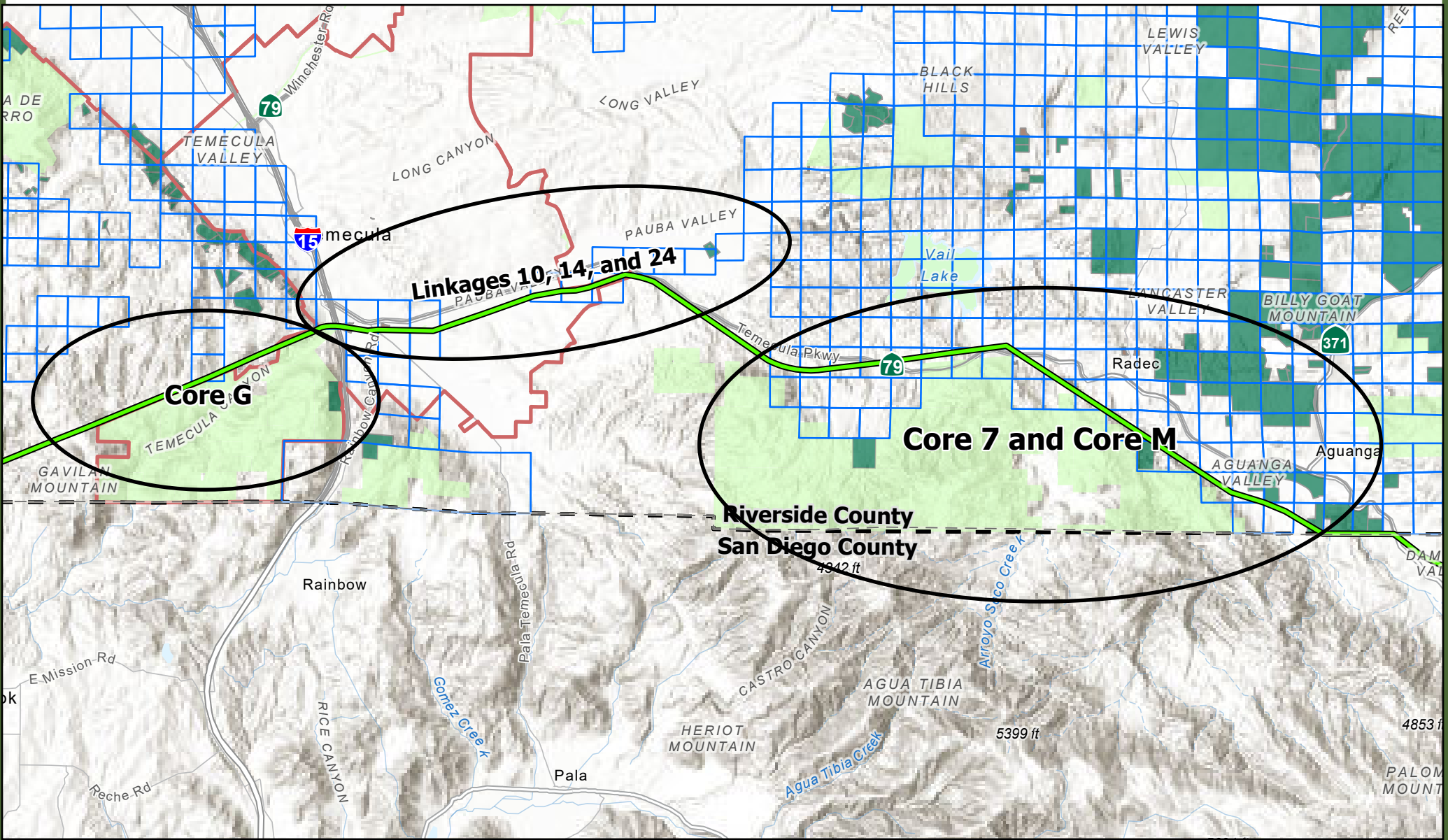
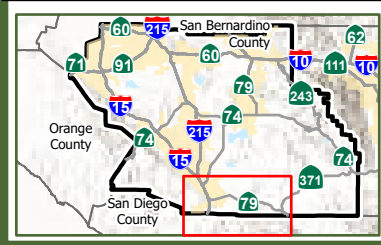


Aaron Adams
City Manager

cc: Temecula City Council

Overlap of Golden Pacific Powerlink Preliminary Route with MSHCP Cores and Linkages

Date Saved: 10/19/2026



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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Powerlink Project | MSHCP Conserved | Additional Reserve Lands | MSHCP Conserved Public Quasi-Public Lands |
| Preliminary Route | Conserved Lands (Fee Title) | Conservation Easements (CE) | Criteria Cells |
| | Conservation Easements (CE) | | Cities |