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MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Ingram at 12:32 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2019, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Smith led the RCA Board Members and meeting attendees in a flag salute.

3. ROLL CALL

Member Agency	Board Member Name	Status
City of Banning	Daniela Andrade	Present
City of Beaumont	Julio Martinez	Present
City of Calimesa	Ed Clark	Present
City of Canyon Lake	Jeremy Smith	Present
City of Corona	Jacque Casillas	Present
City of Eastvale	Joseph Tessari, Alternate	Present
City of Hemet	Michael Perciful	Present
City of Jurupa Valley	Lorena Barajas	Absent
City of Lake Elsinore	Natasha Johnson	Present
City of Menifee	Lesa Sobek	Present
City of Moreno Valley	David Marquez	Present
City of Murrieta	Jonathan Ingram, Chairman	Present
City of Norco	Kevin Bash	Present
City of Perris	David Starr Rabb	Absent
City of Riverside	Andy Melendrez	Absent
City of San Jacinto	Crystal Ruiz	Present
City of Temecula	James Stewart	Present
City of Wildomar	Joseph Morabito	Present
County District 1	Kevin Jeffries	Present
*County District 2	Karen Spiegel	Present
County District 3	Chuck Washington	Present
County District 4	V. Manuel Perez	Absent
County District 5	Jeff Hewitt	Present

**Arrived after roll call was taken.*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS (This item provides the opportunity for the Board Members to report on attended meetings/conferences and any other items related to RCA activities.)

Chairman Ingram announced that Larry Greene stepped down from the City of Canyon Lake and the RCA Board to care for his severely ill wife.

The RCA Board of Directors welcomed new Board Member Jeremy Smith from the City of Canyon Lake.

Board Member Smith announced that Mr. Greene's wife passed away. He requested that the Board reach out to him in support.

Chairman Ingram requested that RCA staff send a condolence card and flowers from the RCA Board.

Chairman Ingram announced that his father is home from the hospital and is receiving care 24/7. He thanked the Board Members for their support during this time.

6. 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 requires a unanimous vote. Added items will be placed for discussion at the end of the agenda.)

There were no additions or revisions.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — June 3, 2019, meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	City of Lake Elsinore
SECONDER:	County District 3
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County District 3, County District 5
ABSENT:	Jurupa Valley, Perris, Riverside, County District 4

8. CONSENT CALENDAR (All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be approved in a single motion unless a Board Member requests separate action on specific Consent Calendar item. The item will be pulled from the Consent Calendar and placed for discussion.)

Chairman Ingram pulled agenda item 8.8 for discussion at the request of Board Member Jeffries.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	City of Wildomar
SECONDER:	City of Banning
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County District 3, County District 5
ABSENT:	Jurupa Valley, Perris, Riverside, County District 4

8.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORTS FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2019

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Reports for May, June, and July 2019.

8.2 FISCAL YEAR 2019 PRELIMINARY FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Fourth Quarter Financial Report.

8.3 FISCAL YEAR 2019 FOURTH QUARTER CONSULTANT REPORTS

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2019 Fourth Quarter Consultant Reports.

8.4 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-009, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR THE JURUPA MOUNTAIN GRANT FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2019-009, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for the Jurupa Mountain Grant for Acquisition of Real Property.

8.5 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-010, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2019-010, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property.

8.6 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-011, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2019-011, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property.

8.7 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-012, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2019-012, Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds for Acquisition of Real Property.

At this time, Chairman Ingram addressed the following pulled Consent Calendar item:

8.8 RESPONSE TO THE 2018-2019 GRAND JURY REPORT

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [17 TO 0]
MOVER:	City of Banning
SECONDER:	City of Menifee
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Norco, San Jacinto, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County District 3, County District 5
ABSTAIN:	Moreno Valley, Temecula
ABSENT:	Jurupa Valley, Perris, Riverside, County District 4

Charles Landry, Executive Director, presented the responses to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report. He stated that RCA appreciated that the Grand Jury praised the MSHCP by stating that “The Plan has provided great value to the County by accelerating the construction of new transportation infrastructure, development and habitat preservation.” He further stated that there were more than two dozen factual inaccuracies, misunderstandings, or inconsistencies in the report. In the interest of time, he reviewed a few of the biggest inaccuracies and RCA’s proposed responses. He advised that the response before the Board addresses and corrects the factual inaccuracies and misunderstandings in the report. He recommended that the RCA Board approve staff’s recommendations to approve the response and direct staff to forward the final response to the Riverside County Grand Jury, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California-County of Riverside, and the Riverside County Clerk-Recorder.

Chairman Ingram called for public comments regarding the item. The following people spoke on the item:

Dennis Hollingsworth from Murrieta, California, addressed the Board regarding the Grand Jury report. He spoke in favor of the RCA Board’s responses to the Grand Jury report and disagreed with the Grand Jury findings.

Ed Sauls addressed the Board regarding the Grand Jury report. He spoke in favor of the RCA Board’s responses to the Grand Jury report and disagreed with the Grand Jury findings.

Tami Wilhelm addressed the Board regarding the Grand Jury report. She spoke in favor of the RCA Board’s responses to the Grand Jury report and disagreed with the Grand Jury findings.

Chairman Ingram thanked the speakers and asked the Board Members if they had anything to add.

Board Member Jeffries stated that the speakers said most everything that he wanted to say. He stated that the report is a commentary of the Grand Jury trying to understand how the Plan works, and it is incredibly difficult to take an outside view and try to

understand it in a matter of weeks or months. There have been a lot of challenges historically with the organization and private property rights that the Board could elaborate on, but he believes the Board has made significant changes. He further stated that his concerns are in the nuances of the rebuttal to the Grand Jury report. He said that in his experience on the Board of Supervisors, an agency can get sideways with the Grand Jury on particular issues by the way it replies or calls them out, and he expressed concern that the draft response could result in that and could invite potentially years of new scrutiny and evaluations of every little thing the organization does. He recommended that the rebuttal be structured more as an education. He recommended getting the facts out by explaining things in a non-confrontational way. He suggested that staff take a slightly more nuanced approach by softening the responses and explaining instead of lecturing.

Board Member Spiegel agreed with Board Member Jeffries and asked if anyone from the Board spoke with the Grand Jury.

Chairman Ingram stated that he, the Vice Chair, multiple Board Members, and staff spoke with the Grand Jury multiple times.

Charles Landry stated that the Grand Jury spent almost seven months speaking with staff and Board Members.

Board Member Spiegel stated that she feels better knowing that they met with staff and Board Members. She stated that in reading the report it does not sound like the Grand Jury met with anyone because the information is so grossly inaccurate. She said that she agrees with Board Member Jeffries to be careful what we ask for when responding because this will just be the beginning and not the end. It is educational. The Grand Jury didn't ask the right questions or ask the questions printed on the report, in just looking at the first eight questions.

Board Member Ruiz stated that she was furious when discussing the report in the Executive Committee meeting. In reading the Grand Jury report, it doesn't appear that they listened to who they talked to or that they cared. She explained that the Grand Jury is supposed to find the truth in the matter. She questioned the motives of the Grand Jury, why they were convened and what was behind the investigation. She stated that the Grand Jury didn't listen. She stated that she is a conservative and most conservatives are not known for conservation, but it is an honor and privilege to be on the RCA Board doing the right thing for land owners, the community and the environment. She said that the response was already toned down. RCA needs to take a stand to support the RCA. RCA needs to be proud of the work they do and stand behind it. She stated that she stands behind the responses to the Grand Jury report and thanked Chairman Ingram and Vice Chair Johnson for representing the organization.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that she was interviewed by the Grand Jury and that the level of sophistication was disheartening. She stated that the way RCA responds and Board Member Jeffries' point is very important. She further stated that there are some things suggested in the report that RCA can do, such as focus on education. There are opportunities available to educate and to be aware of the perception of RCA to those the Board serves. She stated that it's okay for the Grand Jury to have scrutiny over some things, such as the RCA and Board, however, how staff was treated it is not okay. She stated that RCA needs to be careful how much they soften things in the report and keep

things factual. She recommended that RCA thank the Grand Jury for their feedback, move on, and focus on the work to be done.

Board Member Bash stated that he has been on the Board since 2011, which is longer than anyone on the Board. He stated that the Board has an excellent staff. There is a learning curve, but the learning curve is not as big as people want to believe. He recommended that RCA tell the truth and put the Grand Jury in their place. He further stated that he supports the Board and will go with the direction the Board desires. He said that he is proud of the legal team and proud of RCA.

Board Member Sobek stated that she sits on the Executive Committee and learned a lot about the Grand Jury report and those that were interviewed. She thanked the public for speaking. She stated that the Board needs to do their jobs as leaders by being professional, clear, and concise.

Board Member Hewitt stated that the Grand Jury talked to him. He stated that he agrees with the whole premise of the Grand Jury to have citizen oversight for government agencies. He stated that it is needed at every level, but it doesn't mean that what they come up with or say is right. He disagreed with Board Member Jeffries' recommendation to tone down the response. He stated that more scrutiny is fine because when things are done right, there is nothing to hide. He stated that RCA's response is good, and RCA has nothing to hide. He stated that he enjoys talking with the Grand Jury and that they are a great bunch of people. He stated that RCA should put this behind it and move on. He further stated that there are learning curves for everybody and learning moments for all. He stated that he views the program as being extremely necessary and extremely successful in the coming years.

Chairman Ingram stated that he admires the effort that the Grand Jury put into the report and knows that they have a difficult job. He stated that he would be glad to meet with the Supervisors, and if they believe something in the responses needs to be toned down, staff is more than willing to work with them to revise the responses. He stated that he spent seven months and multiple hours meeting with the Grand Jury and that he likes everyone with the Grand Jury. He said the comments that land was to be acquired at \$4,000 an acre was incorrect. The anticipated price was \$13,000 per acre and that has not changed. He stated that there were comments with respect to outsourcing. He stated that he came from the private industry and has a different perspective on how government and businesses should be run. RCA deals with multiple disciplines on a yearly bases and the reason for outsourcing is because RCA can't afford to pay 17 disciplines sitting on site. It's a huge sum of money, so by contracting out RCA has saved an expedient amount of money for the taxpayers in Riverside County. RCA has helped accelerate \$5 billion in infrastructure in the County. He stated that when staff and others reached out to lobbyists, there was a reason. That reason was that RCA needed additional income. He stated that over the last five years, the money spent for lobbyists was approximately \$1.5 million, with an approximately a \$25 million return on investment, which is really good. Additionally, as a result of the lobbyists' efforts, there is a refuge bill in the House and a companion bill in the Senate. The Board is aware that RCA is working on an outreach plan, working to fund the endowment, and gain additional sources of revenue. The RCA needs to be able to access money to accomplish what is needed to complete the Plan, and there hasn't been a lot of money available over the last decade. The County and most of the cities have struggled with lack of funding. He stated he has the utmost respect

for the Grand Jury and does not have an issue with oversight. He stated that he was under the assumption that the Grand Jury looked at malfeasance which RCA had none. The Plan creates a synergy between environment, infrastructure and species. He stated he agrees with Mr. Sauls and believes that the Plan should be completed. The problem with the Plan is that until it is finished, it is holding up millions of development dollars from coming into Riverside County. This is about what is in the best interest of the County. He does not believe that anything in the response was outlandish and that RCA was just being extraordinarily direct with the information being inaccurate. Chairman Ingram stated that if anything in the response is perceived as rude or inappropriate, he is willing to entertain changing it so that everyone is satisfied.

Board Member Johnson made a motion to leave the response as is, continue to focus on the Plan, and thank the Grand Jury for their feedback.

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors:

- 1) Approve the attached response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report: Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority; and
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward the final response to the Riverside County Grand Jury, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California – County of Riverside, and the County Clerk-Recorder.

9. **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-008, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AMENDING AND ADOPTING THE TICKET DISTRIBUTION POLICY TO CONFORM WITH SECTION 18944.1 OF TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [17 TO 0]
MOVER:	City of San Jacinto
SECONDER:	City of Banning
AYES:	Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County District 3, County District 5
ABSENT:	Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Perris, Riverside, County District 4

Representatives from the City of Canyon Lake and City of Eastvale departed the meeting at the start of this item.

Steve DeBaun, General Counsel, presented the Ticket Distribution Policy which conforms with Section 18944.1 of Title 2, California Code of Regulations. He gave a brief overview of the Ticket Distribution Policy.

Chairman Ingram stated that during the Executive Committee meeting, the Item was discussed and everyone agreed that no Board Member should be accept tickets or freebies as elected politicians.

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors:

- 1) Approve the attached response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report: Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority; and
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward the final response to the Riverside County Grand Jury, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California – County of Riverside, and the County Clerk-Recorder.

10. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Charles Landry, Executive Director, reported that since July 2019, RCA acquired seven properties totaling 157 acres, which brings the reserve acreage total to approximately 61,537.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman Ingram announced that staff will be bringing forward a discussion item concerning wildfire issues, defensible space, an ongoing maintenance program, and possibly retaining a state lobbying firm to obtain additional funding.

12. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Representative from County District 1 departed the meeting at the start of Closed Session.

12.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Negotiating Parties: RCA – Executive Director or Designee

Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel No(s).	Property Owner(s) / Agent(s)
1	964-130-004	Albert Anton Hernandez, Evelyn Hernandez Diaz
2	932-220-033	Sally S. Yeh
3	932-160-024	The Nature Conservancy (TNC Anderson)

Before the start of Closed Session Agenda Item No. 12.2, City of Moreno Valley recused himself and exited the room.

12.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

Number of Cases: 1

After Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened. Steve DeBaun, General Counsel, announced the following:

Concerning Agenda Item No. 12.1.1 – APN 964-130-004, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 4.67 acres of real property for \$260,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 12.1.2 – APN 932-220-033, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 9.69 acres of real property for \$205,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 12.1.3 – APN 932-160-024, the Board of Directors approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase approximately 18.89 acres of real property for \$280,000.

Concerning Agenda Item No. 12.2, the Board of Directors approved an agreement with the City of Moreno Valley to:

- (a) collect from the City a one-time lump sum payment of \$75,000 to settle old fee disputes with RCA; and
- (b) the City agrees to amend its MSHCP Fee Ordinance to remove the exemption for affordable housing projects.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Chairman Ingram adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 2019, at 12:30 p.m., at the John F. Tavaglione County Administrative Center Annex, Board Chambers, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Prepared by:



April Boydd
Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Honey Bernas
Deputy Executive Director