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## MEETING MINUTES

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairman Ashley at 12:33 p.m., Monday, December 4, 2017, in the Board Room of the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, 92501.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Ingram led the RCA Board Members and meeting attendees in a flag salute.

### 3. ROLL CALL – Roll call was noted by Rose Haro, Administrative Manager.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
City of Banning	Daniela Andrade*	Present
City of Beaumont	Julio Martinez	Present
City of Calimesa	Jeffrey Hewitt	Present
City of Canyon Lake	Larry Greene	Present
City of Corona	Eugene Montanez	Present
City of Eastvale	Clint Lorimore	Present
City of Hemet	Linda Krupa, <i>Alternate</i>	Present
City of Jurupa Valley	Laura Roughton, <i>Alternate</i>	Present
City of Lake Elsinore	Natasha Johnson	Absent
City of Menifee	Matt Liesemeyer	Present
City of Moreno Valley	Jeffrey Giba	Present
City of Murrieta	Jonathan Ingram	Present
City of Norco	Kevin Bash*	Present
City of Perris	David Starr Rabb	Present
City of Riverside	Andy Melendrez	Present
City of San Jacinto	Crystal Ruiz	Present
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Present
City of Wildomar	Timothy Walker	Present
County District 1	Kevin Jeffries	Present
County District 2	John Tavaglione	Present
County District 3	Chuck Washington	Absent
County District 4	V. Manuel Perez	Absent
County District 5	Marion Ashley, Chairman	Present

*\*Arrived after the meeting started*

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Ashley called for public comments regarding items not listed on the agenda. 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 Ashley called for Board Member announcements. Board Member Rabb requested that the Board of Directors adjourn the meeting in the memory of former Mayor Daryl Busch of the City of Perris, who passed away on Sunday, December 3, 2017. He was a tremendous asset to the City of Perris and will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know and work with him. Chairman Ashley seconded the motion to adjourn in memory of Daryl Busch.

**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.)**

Rose Haro, Administrative Manager, announced that there were no additions or revisions.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — November 6, 2017 meeting of the RCA Board of Directors.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [16 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	City of San Jacinto
<b>SECONDER:</b>	City of Moreno Valley
<b>AYES:</b>	Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, County District 1, County District 2, County District 5
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	City of Calimesa, City of Jurupa Valley
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Banning, Lake Elsinore, Norco, County District 3, 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.)**

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



**8.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP FEE COLLECTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2017**Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Western Riverside County MSHCP Fee Collection Report for October.

**8.2 FISCAL YEAR 2018 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2018 First Quarter Financial Report.

**8.3 PROPOSED 2018 RCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to adopt the Proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule of the RCA Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

**9. FISCAL YEAR 2017 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Honey Bernas, Director of Administrative Services, reported that this was the first year the RCA was audited by Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation. She stated that she was pleased to report that there were no findings. The auditors issued a “clean” or “unmodified” opinion, which is the highest designation the auditors can give. The auditors did not identify any internal control deficiencies or findings with regard to federal expenditures. She commended staff for job well done.

Board Member Liesemeyer asked if there were any management recommendations, and Honey Bernas responded that there were none.

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

Overview

This item is for the RCA Board of Directors to receive and file the following reports:

- A) Basic Financial Statements and Independent Auditors’ Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2017;

B) Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2017; and

C) SAS 114 Report – *The Auditors Communication with Those Charged with Governance*.

**10. ELECTION OF 2018 RCA OFFICER AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. Motion To:** Nominate Jonathan Ingram, City of Murrieta representative, for RCA Chairperson for 2018.

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

- B. Motion To:** Nominate Maryann Edwards, City of Temecula representative, for RCA Vice Chairperson for 2018.

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

*Board Members from the City of Banning and Norco arrived after the vote was taken on Item 10.B.*

- C. Motion To:** Motion was change from electing *one* Member to *two* Members of the RCA Executive Committee and to nominate Jeffrey Hewitt, representative from the City of Calimesa, and Natasha Johnson, representative from the City of Lake Elsinore.

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

- D. Member of the RCA Executive Committee:** This item was combined in the nomination and motion for Item 10.C.



## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **11.1 Washington, D.C., Trip**

Charles Landry, Executive Director, gave an update on the recent trip to Washington, D.C., taken by Landry, Chairman Ashley, and Vice Chairman Ingram to discuss the possibility of establishing a Wildlife Refuge. Upon guidance from the Board of Directors regarding the Refuge, they met with Congressman Calvert and staff from both Senator Feinstein and Harris' offices. RCA has bipartisan support to introduce a bill for RCA to establish a Refuge. Meetings were also held with the Senate Natural Resources Committee staff, the Realty Chief from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Association of Wildlife Refuges. All of the meetings were positive, and there are no anticipated issues with U.S. Fish and Wildlife or the National Association of Refuges. RCA's lobbyists were commended for their efforts and service provided. Tom Mullen was very helpful with many of the meetings with U.S. Senators Harris and Feinstein.

Vice Chairman Ingram stated that this was one of the most productive trips he has made to Washington, D.C., and it is his belief that it will be beneficial to Riverside County and may actually result in a funding stream once D.C. staff is in place. Congressman Calvert has agreed to take the Refuge bill to the floor. Across the board there is bipartisan support for the Refuge, which is a big deal for Riverside County.

Chairman Ashley said that Senator Harris, who serves on the Environmental Committee, is ready to sponsor the bill on the Senate side. RCA has the strong support of Senator Feinstein's office as well, who is ready to step in if necessary. It appears that RCA has bipartisan support. The goal is to establish another source of funding for RCA.

Vice Chairman Ingram advised that RCA staff will bring the bill before the Board for review prior to any action.

### **11.2 Altair Project in the City of Temecula**

Charles Landry, Executive Director, gave an overview of the Altair project in the City of Temecula. Altair is a long-standing, large project on the west side of Temecula that has significant issues with MSHCP consistency based on improper analysis and conflict with reserve assembly. RCA has an agreement, in concept, with the developer and the City of Temecula, which will result in RCA finding that the project is consistent with the MSHCP once the final language is agreed upon. The project is opposed by a number of environmental organizations, but RCA staff is working hard to assist the City of Temecula and the developer, Ambient, to finalize the agreement.

Board Member Edwards thanked RCA staff and Vice Chairman Ingram for working diligently on this project. Because of the size, scope and location of the project, which is in a key cultural and environmentally sensitive area, it was not easy. The project was not going in the right direction, and RCA stepped in and helped to facilitate a solution. The City of Temecula will be holding a meeting on this project on December 12, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. The project is a key component for City of Temecula's traffic circulation because the project will build the western bypass off the I-15 to help traffic circulation in the region. She thanked RCA staff for their efforts on this project.

Chairman Ashley commended Vice Chairman Ingram who worked skillfully in helping to bring a resolution to the issue.

Vice Chairman Ingram said that with the help of Legal Counsel, RCA staff, City of Temecula staff and the developer, an amicable solution was reached, but was difficult. As a result, there will be a western bypass, funds earmarked, via a grant, for the mountain lion study. He asked Executive Director for clarification on the funding. Charles Landry answered that the large land donation, valued at approximately \$500 thousand, is likely where the mountain lion crossing will be located. The developer also agreed to fund an additional 100 acres, which RCA will acquire. Vice Chairman Ingram stated that once the acreage is acquired, then the remaining funding will go to the City of Temecula. Meanwhile, RCA was capable of helping the developer negotiate a deal for 65 acres that will provide for the large animal crossing at I-15. RCA is hopeful that this will come to fruition as soon as possible. This shows that when everyone works together, much can be accomplished. He stated that he was very proud of the Board of Directors and RCA for the fabulous job done. This was a massive hurdle.

## **12. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Charles Landry, Executive Director, stated that at the last RCA Board of Directors' meeting, it was reported that RCA had acquired 57,144 acres. Escrow has closed on two additional properties totaling approximately 158 acres, bringing the reserve total to approximately 57,302 acres.

## **13. FEATURED SPECIES OF THE MONTH**

Elizabeth "Betsy" Dionne, Ecological Resources Specialist, stated that the featured species for the month of December is the coast range newt. She explained that the newt is a California species of special concern and endemic to California. The newt is found in coastal mountain oak forests, woodlands, or rolling grasslands. They are located in the Santa Ana Mountains, including the Santa Rosa Plateau and the Tenaja corridor. They are aquatic during breeding season and during the non-breeding season, they are terrestrial. Newts measure 4 to 7 inches long and brown backs and orange bellies. Their diet consists of small invertebrates. They contain toxic poisonous skin secretions that contain tetrodotoxin, a strong neurotoxin. The poison is fatal to many animals, including humans.

Threats to the species include loss of habitat due to development and wildfires. Fire causes erosion in upland habitat and sedimentation of the pools that newts use for breeding. Invasive species pose a threat to the newt through predation of the eggs and larvae.

Breeding takes place during the rainy season, normally starting in December. They migrate back to the same water body where they hatched. During the breeding season, males develop nuptial pads, which make it easier to hold onto the female during amplexus. Females lay clusters of 7 to 30 eggs in pools 1 to 2 meters deep. Newts reach sexual maturity at three years on average. They can live up to 20 years in the wild.

Betsy Dionne also reported on the monitoring and management activities and goals for this species. The monitoring objectives for this species include documenting occurrence within 75% of the localities the species are known to occur, and determining if successful reproduction is occurring within the MSHCP Conservation Area, which is measured by the presence/absence of larvae or egg masses.

After her presentation, Betsy Dionne invited and responded to questions from the Board Members.



Board Member Lorimore asked if these presentations and the monitoring activities are available on social media. If so, he would like to share the information with the City of Eastvale. Betsy Dionne answered that eventually RCA would like to utilize social media and do more public outreach, but currently there is no social media program. Charlie Landry said that the presentations will be made available on the RCA website. Board Member Lorimore said he will put the presentation on his Instagram.

Board Member Martinez expressed appreciation for the *Featured Species of the Month* PowerPoint presentation. He has been using these presentations in the high school ecology classes. It is very helpful for the students to learn about the species that exist in the Plan Area.

Chairman Ashley and Board Members thanked Betsy Dionne for a well-informed presentation.

*Board Member Jeffries departed the meeting at the start of this item.*

#### 14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman Ashley asked if any Board Member had items for the next meeting. There were no requested items.

#### 15. PRESENTATIONS – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Recognition of Service plaque was presented to the 2017 RCA Chairman, Marion Ashley.

Chairman Ashley thanked the RCA Board for the recognition and expressed his appreciation for opportunity to serve on the RCA Board, and the support of the very active Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Vice Chairman Ingram who have been a source of strength for the organization

There being no other agenda items before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned to Closed Session. Chairman Ashley requested that the board hearing room be cleared for Closed Session and that the recording be turned off.

#### 16. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

##### 16.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Negotiating Parties:** RCA – Executive Director of Designee

**Under Negotiation:** Price/Terms

Item	Assessor Parcel No.	Property Owner(s)/Agent
1	900-060-006	Jo Ann Miller
2	900-060-004	Frank Miller
3.	935-200-014	Fernando Guzman Adriana Guzman

After Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items before the RCA Board, Chairman Ashley adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for the second Monday, January 8, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. at the County of Riverside Administrative Center, Board Room, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California.

Prepared by:



Rose Haro  
RCA Administrative Manager

Respectfully submitted:



Honey Bernas  
Director of Administrative Services