



Riverside Communities Partnership Project Board of Directors

AGENDA

Thursday, May 19, 2022
11:30 AM

Western Riverside Council of Governments
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 816 9381 9074

Password: 051922

Dial in: (669) 900 9128 U.S.

SPECIAL NOTICE – COVID-19 RELATED PROCEDURES IN EFFECT

Due to the State or local recommendations for social distancing resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), this meeting is being held via Zoom under Assembly Bill (AB) 361 (Government Code Section 54953). Pursuant to AB 361, RCHCA does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. AB 361 allows RCHCA to hold Committee meetings via teleconferencing or other electronic means and allows for members of the public to observe and address the committee telephonically or electronically.

In addition to commenting at the Board meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to snelson@wrcog.us.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Suzy Nelson 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6703 or snelson@wrcog.us. Later requests accommodated to the extent feasible.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Joseph Morabito, Chair)**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction

of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings

Requested Action(s):

1. Adopt Resolution Number 2022-02; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Program Authorizing Virtual Committee Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

B. Summary Minutes from the May 20, 2021, Riverside Communities Partnership Project Board of Directors Meeting

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the Summary Minutes from the May 20, 2021, **Riverside Communities Partnership Project** Board of Directors meeting.

C. Moving Annual RCPP Meeting from February to May

Requested Action(s):

1. Adopt Resolution Number 2022-02; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project directing the Annual Meeting to occur in May of each proceeding year.

4. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion.

A. Update on Non-profit Status and Activities

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next Riverside Communities Partnership Project meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., on Zoom with an option for Board members to attend in-person at the WRCOG office.

6. ADJOURNMENT



Riverside Communities Partnership Project

Staff Report

Subject: Assembly Bill 361 Findings
Contact: Dr. Kurt Wilson, Executive Director, kwilson@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6701
Date: May 19, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Adopt Resolution Number 2022-02; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Program Authorizing Virtual Committee Meetings Pursuant to AB 361.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to authorize virtual Board meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

Background:

Since the onset of the COVID-19 in early 2020, California government agencies have been able to continue to discharge their legal responsibilities through the use of virtual teleconferencing platforms such as Zoom to hold public meetings that enabled agencies to meet and conduct business, comply with social distancing orders, and most importantly, provide access to the public. RCHCA has been meeting on Zoom since March of 2020, when many Executive Orders were issued by Governor Newsom in response to the pandemic. One such order altered Brown Act requirements to allow for virtual meetings.

Although transmission, hospitalization, and death rates from COVID-19 have sharply declined since the original onset of the pandemic and subsequent Delta and Omicron Variant surges, an air of uncertainty remains regarding the pandemic and many counties continue to recommend masking inside and social distancing. Given that environment and a desire to continue allowing for the flexibility of holding virtual meetings, the Legislature approved, and Governor Newsom signed, Assembly Bill (AB) 361 to temporarily allow for virtual meetings under proscribed circumstances.

AB 361 amends the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue using teleconferencing and virtual meeting technology in certain circumstances. Under the Bill, legislative bodies can continue to meet remotely as long as there is a "proclaimed state of emergency" and the Board of Directors can make either of the following findings: (a) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or (b) whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Even though cases have dropped, AB 361 is expressly intended "to protect the health and safety of civil servants and the public and does not preference the experience of members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a physical location over members of the public who cannot travel or attend that meeting in a physical location" because of physical status.

The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to exist to this day.

AB 361 requires specific procedural safeguards for the public. To accommodate individuals during these teleconferences and virtual meetings, a public comment period will be offered where the public can address the legislative body directly in real time. Additionally, public comments will be allowed up until the public comment period is closed at the meetings. The agenda will include information on the manner in which the public may access the meeting and provide comments remotely. If technical problems arise that result in the public's access being disrupted, the legislative body will not take any vote or other official action until the technical disruption is corrected and public access is restored.

The attached Resolution allows the Board of Directors to implement AB 361 by making the findings discussed above. These findings will be in effect for 30 days or until the Board of Directors makes findings that the conditions listed therein no longer exist, whichever is shorter. The findings can be extended by the Board of Directors upon a finding that conditions supporting the findings included in the Resolution still exist. The authorization to meet remotely will also apply to any Committees that meet during the 30-day effective period.

AB 361 will allow for virtual meetings during other state-proclaimed emergencies, such as earthquakes or wildfires, where physical attendance may present a risk. AB 361 is scheduled to sunset January 1, 2024.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Resolution 2022-02 AB 361 Findings RCPP](#)



Member Jurisdictions

Corona • Hemet • Lake Elsinore • Menifee • Moreno Valley • Murrieta
Perris • Riverside • Temecula • Wildomar • County of Riverside

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
PURSUANT TO AB 361**

WHEREAS, the Riverside Communities Partnership Project (RCPP) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation under the Nonprofit Benefit Corporation Law for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, RCPP's Board of Directors meeting is open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend and participate in RCPP's meetings; and

WHEREAS, starting in March 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19 in the State of California, the Governor issued a number of executive orders aimed at containing the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, among other things, these orders waived certain requirements of the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to meet virtually; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Governor's executive orders, RCHCA has been holding virtual meetings during the pandemic in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the public, RCHCA staff, and RCHCA's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the RCHCA Board of Directors is the same as the RCPP's Board of Directors and therefore the same need to hold virtual meetings during the pandemic in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the public, staff, and the Board of Directors remains; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order related to the suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act expired on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361 (in effect as of October 1, 2021 – Government Code Section 54953(e)), which allows legislative bodies to meet virtually provided there is a state of emergency, and either (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or (2) the legislative body determines by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the RCHCA and the RCPP, specifically, a state of emergency has been proclaimed related to COVID-19 and state or local officials are recommending measures to promote social distancing and the Board of Directors believes that meeting in person would continue to present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference

Section 2. Findings. Consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), the Board of Directors finds and determines that (1) a state of emergency related to COVID-19 is currently in effect and (2) state or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. Based on the findings and determinations included herein, the Board of Directors authorizes and directs any of its legislative bodies, including, without limitation, its Board of Directors, to conduct remote teleconference meetings under the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e) and that such bodies shall provide public access to their meetings as provided in Section 54953(e).

Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption and shall be effective for 30 days unless extended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution.

Section 5. Extension by Motion; Supersede. The Board of Directors may extend the application of this Resolution by motion and majority vote by up to 30 days at a time, provided that it makes all necessary findings consistent with and pursuant to the requirements of Section 54953(e)(3). Any such extension may be made before or after the expiration of the preceding 30-day period.

Section 6. Full and Fair Access. In making the findings included herein, the Board of Directors specifically relies on Section 8(b) of Statutes 2021, c.165 (AB 361, § 3, effective September 16, 2021) which provides as follows:

- (b) The Legislature finds and declares that [the changes made by AB 361 to] Section 54953 of the Government Code, all increase and potentially limit the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

- (1) By removing the requirement that public meetings be conducted at a primary physical location with a quorum of members present, this act protects the health and safety of civil servants and the public and does not preference the experience of members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a physical location over members of the public who cannot travel or attend that meeting in a physical location.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project on May 19, 2022.

Joseph Morabito, Chair
RCPP Board of Directors

Dr. Kurt Wilson, Secretary
RCPP Board of Directors

Approved as to form:

Aaron Gettis
RCPP Legal Counsel

AYES: _____ NAYS: _____ ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

Riverside Communities Partnership Project

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project (RCPP) was called to order by Chair Lesa Sobek at 11:32 a.m., on May 20, 2021, on the Zoom platform.

2. ROLL CALL

- City of Corona - Tom Richins
- City of Hemet - Russ Brown
- City of Lake Elsinore - Steve Manos
- City of Menifee - Lesa Sobek (Chair)
- City of Moreno Valley - David Marquez
- City of Murrieta - Lisa DeForest
- City of Perris - Michael Vargas
- City of Riverside - Andy Melendrez
- City of Temecula - Maryann Edwards
- City of Wildomar - Joseph Morabito
- County of Riverside, District 5 - Jeff Hewitt

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT AND POLICY CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Perris

SECONDER: Temecula

AYES: Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, District 5

A. Summary Minutes from the November 19, 2020, Riverside Communities Partnership Project Board of Directors Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the November 19, 2020, Riverside Communities Partnership Project Board of Directors meeting.

B. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency Budget

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 2021-01; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project adopting the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Agency Budget.

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next RCPP Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, 92501.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.



Riverside Communities Partnership Project

Staff Report

Subject: Moving Annual RCPP Meeting from February to May
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: May 19, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Adopt Resolution Number 2022-02; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project directing the Annual Meeting to occur in May of each proceeding year.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to requests approval to move the annual RCPP meeting from February to May.

Background:

In November 2019, the RCHCA Board of Directors authorized staff to establish the Riverside Communities Partnership Project (RCPP) as a non-profit 501(c)(3). Both the RCHCA and the RCPP's fiscal year budgets are approved in May of each year. Per Article 6, Section 1, Subsection 6.1.4 of the Bylaws, the annual meeting of the RCPP shall be in February; however, the subsection allows the Board the authority to change the date by resolution.

Staff is recommending that it is in best interest on behalf of the RCPP to coincide the annual meeting with the approval of the fiscal year budget.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal year budget for the RCPP would be approved in May of each year instead of February.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Resolution 2022-02 Moving annual meeting to the month of May](#)



Member Jurisdictions

Corona • Hemet • Lake Elsinore • Menifee • Moreno Valley • Murrieta
Perris • Riverside • Temecula • Wildomar • County of Riverside

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
DIRECTING THE ANNUAL MEETING TO OCCUR IN MAY OF EACH
PROCEEDING YEAR**

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency’s (RCHCA) and the Riverside Communities Partnership Project’s (RCPP) fiscal year budgets are approved in May of each year; and it is in the best interest on behalf of the RCPP to coincide the annual meeting with the approval of the fiscal year budget; and

WHEREAS, per Article 6, Section 1, Subsection 6.1.4, the annual meeting of the RCPP shall be in February; however, the subsection allows the Board the authority to change the date by resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project as follows:

Section 1. The RCPP’s annual meeting shall hereinafter occur at the regularly scheduled RCHCA meeting in May of each fiscal year.

Section 2. The stated change shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Riverside Communities Partnership Project Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project on May 19, 2022.

Joseph Morabito, Chair
RCPP Board of Directors

Dr. Kurt Wilson, Secretary
RCPP Board of Directors

Approved as to form:

Aaron Gettis
RCPP Legal Counsel

AYES: _____ NAYS: _____ ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____



Riverside Communities Partnership Project

Staff Report

Subject: Update on Non-profit Status and Activities
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: May 19, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to provide and update on the non-profit status and activities of the Riverside Communities Partnership Project (RCPP).

Background:

In November 2019, the RCHCA Board of Directors authorized staff to establish the RCPP as a non-profit 501(c)(3). The mission of the RCPP is to bring together resources to support the conservation, education, and collaboration efforts of RCHCA. In October 2021, the RCPP obtained tax exempt status through state and federal filings.

RCPP is a vital component of RCHCA. It serves as the entity to apply for grant funding to expand coordination among the many Riverside County agencies responsible for various land management, community development, emergency preparedness, volunteer, and environmental stewards.

AmeriCorps is a national service organization that aims to improve lives in a variety of areas. With volunteers' ages around 18 - 24, they will work to assist in conservation projects in Riverside County. AmeriCorps first partnered with the RCPP in 2019 and has worked on several projects with the various entities that participate in the program, including habitat restoration, homelessness counts and fuel reduction.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023, RCPP activities with AmeriCorps teams are currently on hold until RCHCA finds suitable housing for the teams. Once housing is secured, RCHCA will resume hosting the AmeriCorps teams for various projects through the RCPP and partners. There is no expected revenue or expenses anticipated for FY 2022/2023 while staff conducts this research.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

None.