



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Board of Directors

AGENDA

Thursday, November 19, 2020
11:30 a.m.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501

**RCHCA's OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19
AND STAFF ARE WORKING REMOTELY.**

**Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this meeting via Zoom
(see meeting information below).**

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SPECIAL NOTICE: COVID-19 RELATED PROCEDURES IN EFFECT

Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 (issued March 17, 2020) in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12, 2020). This order states that RCHCA does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows RCHCA to hold Committee meetings via video and teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically.

To follow the Order issued by the Governor, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. will be held via video and teleconference and any members of the public can attend electronically. Members of the public may send public comments by emailing jleonard@wrcog.us, or calling (951) 405-6702, before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement can contact Janis Leonard prior to 11:30 a.m. on November 17, 2020, at (951) 405-6702 or at jleonard@wrcog.us.

In accordance with Government Code Section 84308(c), any person present at this meeting who wishes to speak on a matter involving a license, permit or other entitlement for use pending before the Board and who has made a contribution of more than \$250 in the past twelve (12) months to any member of the Board will be asked to state for the record the Board member to whom the contribution was made and the matter of consideration with which they are involved.

The Board of Directors may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Michael Vargas, Chair)**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

RECESS OF THE RCHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING TO CONVENE THE MEETING OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND RECONVENE THE RCHCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At this time members of the public can address the Board regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board 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 Board in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

5. **CONSENT AND POLICY CALENDAR**

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

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|
| A. | Summary Minutes from the September 17, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting are Available for Consideration. | P. 1 |
| | <u>Requested Action:</u> 1. <i>Approve the Summary Minutes from the September 17, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.</i> | |
| B. | Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies Through September 30, 2020 | Princess Hester P. 7 |
| | <u>Requested Action:</u> 1. <i>Receive and file.</i> | |
| C. | Financial Report Through September 30, 2020 | Princess Hester P. 13 |
| | <u>Requested Action:</u> 1. <i>Receive and file.</i> | |
| D. | Status Report on the Attendance Roster | Princess Hester P. 21 |
| | <u>Requested Action:</u> 1. <i>Receive and file.</i> | |

- E. **Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Committees for the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the Lake Mathews Reserve** **Brian Shomo** **P. 27**
- Requested Action:** 1. *Receive and file.*
- F. **Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee** **Harry Sandoval** **P. 29**
- Requested Action:** 1. *Receive and file.*
- G. **Schedule of Board Meetings for 2021** **Princess Hester** **P. 31**
- Requested Action:** 1. *Approve the Schedule of RCHCA Board Meetings for 2021.*
- H. **Approval of an Incidental Take Agreement Between RCHCA and SoCalGas Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the L2001 W-D Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project** **Princess Hester** **P. 33**
- Requested Actions:** 1. *Approve the Agreement between the RCHCA and Southern California Gas regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.*
2. *Authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.*
3. *Find the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3).*
- I. **Approval of an Incidental Take Agreement Between RCHCA and SoCalGas Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for Line 2000-D P2 W-D Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project** **Princess Hester** **P. 35**
- Requested Actions:** 1. *Approve the Agreement between the RCHCA and Southern California Gas regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.*
2. *Authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.*
3. *Find the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3).*

J. Single Signature Authority Report *Princess Hester* P. 37

Requested Action: 1. Receive and File

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts *Princess Hester, RCHCA* P. 39

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

B. Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Agency Goals and Objectives *Princess Hester, RCHCA* P. 41

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

C. Motte Rimrock Gift of Land *Princess Hester, RCHCA* P. 43

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

D. Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update *Riana Fisher, RCHCA* P. 57

Requested Action: 1. Approve the Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Concept Design Plan.

E. Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update *Brian Shomo, RCHCA* P. 59

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

F. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts Activities Update *Brian Shomo, RCHCA* P. 61

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER *Rick Bishop*

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS *Members*

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Board of Directors meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS *Members*

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Board of Directors.

10. NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority

5.A

Regular Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Thursday, September 17, 2020

11:30 AM

Zoom Platform

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Vargas at 11:35 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

2. ROLL CALL

Jurisdiction	Attendee	Status	Arrived
City of Corona	Yolanda Carrillo	Present	11:30 AM
City of Hemet		Absent	
City of Lake Elsinore	Steve Manos	Present	11:30 AM
City of Menifee	Lesa Sobek	Present	11:30 AM
City of Moreno Valley		Absent	
City of Murrieta	Christi White	Present	11:30 AM
City of Perris	Michael Vargas	Present	11:30 AM
City of Riverside	Steve Hemenway	Present	11:30 AM
City of Temecula	Maryann Edwards	Present	11:30 AM
City of Wildomar	Joseph Morabito	Present	11:30 AM
County of Riverside	Jeff Hewitt	Present	11:30 AM
RCHCA Director	Rick Bishop	Present	11:30 AM

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT AND POLICY CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER: City of Murrieta
SECONDER: City of Wildomar
AYES: Corona, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, County of Riverside
ABSENT: Hemet, Moreno Valley

A. Summary Minutes from the May 21, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting are Available for Consideration.

Action: 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the May 21, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.*

B. Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies through June 30, 2020

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Financial Report through June 30, 2020

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. Status Report on the Attendance Roster

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Committees for the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the Lake Mathews Reserve

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

G. Amendment to the Appendix of the RCHCA Conflict of Interest Code

Action: 1. *Adopted Resolution Number 2020-02; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency amending the Conflict of Interest Code Pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974.*

H. Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Independent Audit Report of Financial Statements

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

I. Fiscal Year 2019/2020 4th Quarter Budget Amendment

Action: 1. *Approved the 4th Quarter Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.*

5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**A. Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts**

Princess Hester, Director of Administration, reported that RCHCA has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to reclassify the endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) from endangered to threatened. Staff is happy to report that the Proposed Rule has been published, and a Final Rule is anticipated to be presented to Congress between November 2020 and January 2021.

This Rule will publish with a Section 4(d) Rule that will allow RCHCA to perform management actions that support SKR and other species without having to get separate approvals from USFWS.

RCHCA received a grant from the Bureau of Land Management in the amount of \$600k to develop scientific-based programs for SKR recovery. Staff will use these funds to implement a Range-Wide Management Monitoring Plan for SKR.

Actions: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Conservation Conversation Video Series

Princess Hester, Director of Administration, reported that RCHCA is working on branding and has created one-minute informative videos on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) and the habitat management and monitoring of SKR. Four videos have been created to date.

The videos can be found on the YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1DC715DGDyKz8IX4CF_GycA9E8bBPPvZ.

Please contact staff if there are any specific topics you would like to have explored.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update

Riana Fisher, Staff Analyst, reported that the Steele Peak Public Access Plan will include a 1.5-mile trail utilizing an existing maintenance road. Trail amenities will include signage, trailhead, seating, and waste receptacles. RCHCA applied and was approved for a final round of the California Natural Resources Agency Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program. If the grant is awarded to RCHCA, the \$609k will be used for these amenities.

RCHCA is also finalizing an agreement with the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources for use of a parking lot adjacent to the Reserve.

The trail flows in a loop and varies in difficulty, depending on the route taken. Various sage scrub plants and a variety of wildlife can be viewed from the trail.

Actions:

1. *Adopted Resolution Number 2020-03; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency approving the application for grant funds for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program.*
2. *Authorized the Executive Director to sign and execute agreements and grant documents.*

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	City of Murrieta
SECONDER:	City of Menifee
AYES:	Corona, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, Wildomar, County of Riverside
ABSENT:	Hemet, Moreno Valley

D. Riverside Communities Partnership Project Activities Update

Riana Fisher, Staff Analyst, reported that the Riverside Communities Partnership Project will soon become RCHCA's 5013(c) and will expand opportunities for RCHCA to be eligible for grants and other funding.

Earlier this year RCHCA applied for and received a grant of an AmeriCorps National Civilian Communities Corps team, who worked on local projects. Due to COVID-19, the continued work

on planned projects are on hold until the year 2021.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update

Brian Shomo, Director of Natural Resources, reported that RCHCA entered into a contract last year with the Bureau of Land Management provided approximately \$600k, and included a renewal of four years with funding in the amount of \$194k each year. RCHCA will utilize the funding for range-wide habitat management, public outreach and education, and habitat restoration.

RCHCA is in a contract with Mariposa Biology for \$42k to perform ongoing small mammal survey, a herpetological survey, and riparian mitigation restoration. Staff recently completed aerial drone weed mapping under this contract.

RCHCA is in a five-year contract with the Metropolitan Water District with a \$153k proposed annual work plan that will include habitat management and restoration, fire map development, and riparian enhancement.

Under a four-year contract with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services, RCHA staff have removed four stands of *Arundo donax*, an invasive species, and controlled any remaining *Arundo*. This year, staff will plant native trees to restore the area, to the greatest extent possible, to its natural habitat.

RCHCA was awarded \$275k through the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Grant to reduce fire fuel loads, control exotic species, and restore riparian habitat. This was the highest amount awarded in the state.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts Activities Update

Brian Shomo, Director of Natural Resources, reported that RCHCA staff hold specialized permits which allow them to handle endangered species. Staff strive to monitor Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) throughout all eight reserves on a three-year cycle, given that the lifespan of SKR are typically three years.

This year, monitoring began at the Steele Peak Reserve. The grids selected are near the proposed trail within the Public Access Plan discussed earlier in this meeting. The total number of SKR exceeded those from 2011.

Staff will be monitoring SKR at Lake Perris in mid-October. Staff will report on the results at the November Board meeting.

The management and monitoring of the Southwest Multi-Species Reserve went out to bid; RCHCA presented a solid proposal.

The Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park will not be monitored in the near future due to an issue with the City of Riverside not accepting RCHCA's insurance documents regarding Workman's Compensation.

RCHCA has a three-year Vegetation Management Plan agreement for the Lake Mathews Reserve in which RCHA conducts prescribed burns on lands included within the Plan. Through this agreement, prescribed burns can occur on RCHCA-owned property, with no liability to RCHCA should anything happen.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

G. Innovation in Management and Monitoring Activities Update

Harry Sandoval, Natural Resource Manager, reported that RCHCA is currently developing a Fire Response Plan for the Lake Mathews Reserve, and is being funded under the agreement with the Metropolitan Water District. The goal of the Plan is to help emergency first responders identify the most effective methods to fight wildfires within the reserve while protecting sensitive natural resources and adjacent residential areas.

The Plan will be published in various formats and distributed to emergency first responders in the area. This Plan showcases the power of RCHCA's GIS databases. The Plan is now evolving to solve other issues.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

6. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Bishop, General Manager, thanked the Board for their leadership over the past several years in the transition of the Agency under WRCOG, achieving a downlisting of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat, the creation of a Public Access Plan, enhancing agency revenues, and performing cutting edge management and monitoring.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next RCHCA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 11:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m. in honor of Director Maryann Edwards' birthday.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies through September 30, 2020

Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the status of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat fee collections for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 as of September 30, 2020.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

Member jurisdictions impose a mitigation fee on certain types of development within their jurisdictions for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR). All SKR mitigation fees collected are forwarded to RCHCA before July 31 for the period of April 1 through June 30; before October 31 for the period of July 1 through September 30; before January 31 for the period of October 1 through December 3; and before April 30 for the period January 1 through March 31.

Revenues, such as mitigation fees, are allocated in RCHCA's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Agency Budget and are programmed annually. Staff will monitor mitigation fees on a quarterly basis and make budget amendments as necessary.

The attachment shows the status of fee collections for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 as of September 30, 2020.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed the report through June 30, 2020.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

1. Fiscal Year 2020/2021 net Stephens' Kangaroo Rat mitigation fee collections by member jurisdiction based on reports as of September 30, 2020.

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Item 5.B

Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers
from Member Agencies Through
September 30, 2020

Attachment 1

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 RCHCA net
Stephens' Kangaroo Rat mitigation
fee collections by member jurisdiction
as of September 30, 2020

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FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021
RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY
NET STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT MITIGATION FEE COLLECTIONS BY MEMBER JURISDICTION
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	JULY 2020	AUG 2020	SEPT 2020	OCT 2020	NOV 2020	DEC 2020	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	MAR 2021	APR 2021	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021	TOTAL FISCAL YTD	PERCENT OF TOTAL
CITY OF CORONA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF HEMET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE	0	0	395	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	395	6.2%
CITY OF MENIFEE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF MORENO VALLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF MURRIETA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF PERRIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CITY OF RIVERSIDE	0	0	4,240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,240	66.4%
CITY OF TEMECULA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE *	0	0	1,750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,750	27.4%
CITY OF WILDOMAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTALS	0	0	6,385	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,385	100%

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Financial Report Through September 30, 2020
Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to present information concerning the status of the wasting and non-wasting endowments and provide updated information on revenues collected, as well as expenditures and fund balances for the Agency.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

Attached is the Financial Report summary through September 30, 2020. This is a preliminary report pending final year end transactions. Once finalized, a budget adjustment may be required to update the report based on audit recommendations.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed the report through June 30, 2020.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

1. Monthly Budget-to-Actuals for the month ending September 30, 2020.

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Item 5.C

Financial Report Through
September 30, 2020

Attachment 1

Monthly Budget-to-Actuals for the month
ending September 30, 2020

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**Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Monthly Financials
For the Month Ending September 30, 2020**

	Actual 9/30/2020	Budget 6/30/2021	Variance
Program: Administration			
Revenues and Transfers in			
RCHCA Revenue	16,940	625,000	(608,060)
Interest Revenue - Banks		80,000	(80,000)
RCHCA - Deposit Based Fee Draws		2,500	(2,500)
RCHCA - Revenue for Contracted Services	453,174	367,500	85,674
Total Revenues	\$ 470,114	\$ 1,075,000	\$ (604,886)

Expenses

RCHCA Salaries & Wages	42,244	231,279	189,035
Fringe Benefits	12,787	77,733	64,946
General Legal Services	2,712	15,000	12,289
Audit Svcs - Professional Fees		21,000	21,000
Commissioners Per Diem		6,000	6,000
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	2,462	6,000	3,538
Parking Validations		300	300
Staff Recognition		100	100
Event Support	1	1,000	999
Program/Office Supplies		5,000	5,000
Computer Equipment/Supplies		5,000	5,000
Computer Software		2,000	2,000
Rent/Lease Equipment	185	1,000	815
Membership Dues		1,000	1,000
Subscriptions/Publications	100	100	-
Postage		1,500	1,500
Other Household Exp (Gas)		15,000	15,000
Printing Services		8,000	8,000
Misc. Office Equipment		500	500
Uniforms and Replacement Clothing		1,000	1,000
Small Tools & Instruments		3,000	3,000
Communications - Regular Phone		0	-
Communications - Cellular Phones	1,408	10,000	8,592
GIS Services		0	-



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Monthly Financials
For the Month Ending September 30, 2020

	Actual 9/30/2020	Budget 6/30/2021	Variance
Equipment Maintenance - General		1,000	1,000
Insurance - Gen/Busi Liab/Auto	10,624	45,000	34,376
License & Permits		1,000	1,000
Seminars/Conferences		500	500
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement		1,500	1,500
Travel - Ground Transportation		500	500
Travel - Airfare		500	500
Lodging		500	500
Meals		5,000	5,000
Other Incidentals		1,000	1,000
Special Program Expense		10,000	10,000
Weed Abatement		22,000	22,000
Staff Education Reimbursement		1,000	1,000
Research and Statistics		5,000	5,000
Consulting Labor	73,824	371,640	297,816
Operating Transfer Out (overhead)	47,978	191,912	143,934
Total Expenses	Total	\$ 1,069,564	\$ 875,239



**Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Monthly Financials
For the Month Ending September 30, 2020**

	Actual 9/30/2020	Budget 6/30/2021	Variance
Program: Lake Matthews Reserve			
Revenues			
RCHCA - Revenue for Contracted Service		266,221	266,221
Lake Mathews Endowment Fund Drawdown		246,965	246,965
Total Revenues	\$ -	\$ 513,186	\$ 513,186
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages - Fulltime	46,929	301,644	254,715
Fringe Benefits	14,205	99,542	85,337
Reserve Program Supplies		64,000	64,000
Other Household Exp		1,000	1,000
Membership Dues		-	-
Uniforms and Replacement Clothing		500	500
Small Tools & Instruments		15,000	15,000
Communications - Cellular Phones		-	-
GIS Services		5,000	5,000
License & Permits		1,500	1,500
Consulting Labor	5,000	25,000	20,000
Motor Vehicles Purchased		-	-
Total Expenses	Total \$ 66,134	\$ 513,186	\$ 447,052

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Report on the Attendance Roster

Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide members with a record of attendance at Board of Directors meetings. The Joint Powers Agreement requires the RCHCA Board of Directors to hold at least four meetings per year.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

Attached is the Board Meeting Attendance Roster.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

1. Board meetings attendance roster.

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Item 5.D

Status Report on the Attendance
Roster

Attachment 1

Board meetings attendance roster

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RCHCA BOARD MEETING Attendance Roster

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS	2020			
	February	May	September	November
Corona	X	X	X	
Hemet	X	X		
Lake Elsinore	X	X	X	
Menifee	X	X	X	
Moreno Valley		X		
Murrieta		X	X	
Perris	X	X	X	
Riverside	X	X	X	
Temecula	X	X	X	
Wildomar	X	X	X	
County of Riverside	X	X	X	

“X” Denotes member / alternate member present at meeting.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Committees for the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve and the Lake Mathews Reserve

Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of Natural Resources, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to report on staff attendance and topics discussed related to the Reserve Management Committees (RMC) for the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (SWMSR) and the Lake Mathews Reserve (LMR).

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (SWMSR) Management Committee (June 30, 2020)

1. There was no SWMSR Management Committee meeting during the current reporting period.

Lake Mathews Reserve Management Committee (June 30, 2020)

1. There was no Lake Mathews Reserve Management Committee meeting during the current reporting period.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee
Contact: Harry Sandoval, Natural Resource Manager, hsandoval@wrcog.us, (951) 206-3260
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to report on staff attendance and topics discussed related to the Reserve Management Coordinating Committee.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

The primary mission of the Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee (RMCC) is to promote coordination of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) management throughout the eight Reserves and to address regional management issues of importance to species recovery in the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan.

Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee

There was no RMCC meeting during the current reporting period.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of the Schedule of Board Meetings for 2021
Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704
Date: November 19, 2020

Requested Action:

1. Approve the Schedule of RCHCA Board Meetings for 2021.
-

The Joint Powers Agreement requires the RCHCA to hold a minimum of four meetings per year. The RCHCA Board meets quarterly on the third Thursday. An additional meeting is scheduled for June. No meeting will be held in August but will be held in September instead.

The dates for 2021 are February 18, May 20, June 17, September 16, and November 18. All RCHCA Board meetings are scheduled at 11:30 a.m. In light of COVID-19, WRCOG's office is closed to the public and all meetings are being held via Zoom. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this meeting via Zoom.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of an Incidental Take Agreement Between the RCHCA and SoCalGas Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the L2001 W-D Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project

Contact: Princess Hester, Administrative Services Officer, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

Requested Actions:

1. Approve the Agreement between the RCHCA and Southern California Gas regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.
3. Find the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3).

The Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) specifically provides "in cases where an entity is exempt from RCHCA member jurisdiction permits, the entity can request an incidental take authorization under this HCP, and the RCHCA will issue such authorizations directly to the requesting entity. This would most commonly arise when water or school districts propose activities resulting in incidental take of SKR. In such cases, the RCHCA will have the ability to issue incidental take authorizations directly to the requesting agency."

Southern California Gas (SoCal Gas) seeks approval of an Agreement that will convey SKR incidental take authorization for the L2001 W-D Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project. SoCal Gas proposes as part of its Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan implementation, which involves testing its natural gas pipeline, Line 2001 West Section D Badlands (L2001 W-D Badlands).

This Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan is one of many in response to Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) San Bruno incident of 2010. Federal and State legislation (49 United States Code Sections 60101 *et seq* and California Public Utilities Code Sections 995 *et seq*) passed after the PG&E pipeline explosion mandates that SoCalGas hydrostatically test its transmission pipelines which transmit natural gas through portions of Riverside County. Hydrostatic testing does not increase or expand the pipeline's existing use but is a critical maintenance function of natural gas transmission facilities.

The project is in Riverside County between the Cities of Beaumont and Moreno Valley in the unincorporated County of Riverside. A portion of the project is within the SKR Core Reserve at Potrero Area of Critical Concern (Potrero ACEC). The Implementation Agreement for the Riverside County Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan allows the RCHCA to approve projects within an SKR Core Reserve for operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure improvements, provided, however, that the operation and maintenance minimize take of SKR and disturbance of occupied SKR habitat to the maximum extent practicable. The remaining areas of the project are outside of the Potrero ACEC in the SKR Plan Area.

SoCalGas proposes three pipe excavation locations, one work area, and two staging areas. There are also various locations of access road improvement. Work will include vegetation clearance and topsoil salvaging for restoration purposes. After project completion, SoCal Gas will remove all equipment from the Reserve.

Construction activities are anticipated to last approximately seven months between February 1, 2021, and August 11, 2021. Work will occur Monday through Saturday from sunrise to sunset, depending on crew availability. SoCal Gas is requesting coverage for the 0.973 acres for work inside Potrero ACEC and 19.44 acres for work in the SKR Plan Area.

The total Project Fee is \$9,720.50 (19.44 acres X \$500). The Project Fee is not being assessed on the parcels inside the Core Reserve Area because it is considered regular operations and maintenance necessary for public safety as outlined in the RCHCA Implementation Agreement.

The Certificate of Inclusion is the vehicle for issuing take authorization for all segments of the project under the Agreement and for tracking the issuance of the take authorization. Incidental take authorization will be conveyed with the execution of the Certificate of Inclusion.

This project is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3). Per Section 15301, Class 1 CEQA exemptions consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

Specifically, the project is exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(b) "Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services." The project fits this exemption as this is an existing SoCalGas facility and the project is merely implementing the State-mandated hydrostatic testing of the pipelines for increased safety of the overall system. Hydrostatic testing does not increase or expand the use of the existing pipeline or facilities. Nearly all required actions will be temporary and disturbed areas will return to their existing – if not enhanced – condition. Furthermore, the project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemption as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. No unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental impact. The Agreement is also exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the Agreement may have a significant effect on the environment. Again, the majority of the required project actions are temporary in nature and once complete, will return to their prior condition. There is no potential for a physical environmental impact to occur. The SKR HCP contemplated such agreements for incidental take authorization under the HCP "in cases where an entity exempt from RCHCA member agency permits requests an incidental take authorization under this HCP." Approval of this Agreement and possible incidental take authorized under the Agreement was previously contemplated and considered when the SKR HCP was adopted.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

The project will generate approximately \$2,500 in Deposit Based Fees.

Attachment:

1. [Click to access the attachment: Agreement between the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and SoCal Gas regarding Incidental Take authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the L2001 W-D Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project.](#)



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of an Incidental Take Agreement Between RCHCA and SoCalGas Regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the L2000-D P2 Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project

Contact: Princess Hester, Administrative Services Officer, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

Requested Actions:

1. Approve the Agreement between the RCHCA and Southern California Gas regarding Incidental Take Authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and authorize the General Manager to sign the Agreement after USFWS and CDFW have approved the Incidental Take Authorization called for under the Agreement.
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the Certificate of Inclusion and collect the mitigation fee as described in the Agreement and the Certificate of Inclusion.
3. Find the approval of the Agreement exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3).

The Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) specifically provides "in cases where an entity is exempt from RCHCA member agency permits, the entity can request an incidental take authorization under this HCP, and the RCHCA will issue such authorizations directly to the requesting entity. This would most commonly arise when water or school districts propose activities resulting in incidental take of SKR. In such cases, the RCHCA will have the ability to issue incidental take authorizations directly to the requesting agency."

Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) seeks approval of an Agreement that will convey SKR incidental take authorization for the Line 2000-D P2 Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project. SoCalGas proposes as part of its Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan implementation, which involves testing its natural gas pipeline, Line 2000 West Section D P2 Badlands (L2000-D P2 Badlands).

This Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan is one of many in response to Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) San Bruno incident of 2010. Federal and State legislation (49 United States Code Sections 60101 *et seq* and California Public Utilities Code Sections 995 *et seq*) passed after the PG&E pipeline explosion mandates that SoCalGas hydrostatically test its transmission pipelines which transmit natural gas through portions of Riverside County. Hydrostatic testing does not increase or expand the pipeline's existing use but is a critical maintenance function of natural gas transmission facilities.

The project is in Riverside County between the Cities of Beaumont and Moreno Valley in the unincorporated County of Riverside. A portion of the project is within the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Core Reserve at Potrero Area of Critical Concern (Potrero ACEC). The Implementation Agreement for the Riverside County Long-Term Habitat Conservation Plan allows the RCHCA to approve projects within an SKR Core Reserve for operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure improvements, provided, however, that the operation and maintenance minimize take of SKR and disturbance of occupied SKR habitat to the maximum extent practicable. The remaining areas of the project are outside of the Potrero ACEC in the SKR Plan Area.

SoCalGas proposes 10 pipe excavation locations, 12 span support work areas, three turn around areas, and one staging area. There are also various locations of access road improvement. Work will include vegetation clearance and topsoil salvaging for restoration purposes. After project completion, SoCal Gas will remove all equipment from the reserve.

Construction activities are anticipated to last approximately six months between September 2021 and February 2022. Work will occur Monday through Saturday from sunrise to sunset, depending on crew availability. SoCal Gas is requesting coverage for the 1.41 acres for work inside Potrero ACEC and 69.22 acres for work in the SKR Plan Area. Total project acreage is 70.63.

The total Project Fee is \$34,609.50 (69.22 acres X \$500). The Project Fee is not being assessed on the parcels inside the Core Reserve Area because it is considered regular operations and maintenance necessary for public safety as outlined in the RCHCA Implementation Agreement.

The Certificate of Inclusion is the vehicle for issuing take authorization for all segments of the project under the Agreement and for tracking the issuance of the take authorization. Incidental take authorization will be conveyed with the execution of the Certificate of Inclusion.

This project is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15061(b)(3). Per Section 15301, Class 1 CEQA exemptions consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

Specifically, the project is exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(b) "Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services." The project fits this exemption as this is an existing SoCalGas facility and the project is merely implementing the State-mandated hydrostatic testing of the pipelines for increased safety of the overall system. Hydrostatic testing does not increase or expand the use of the existing pipeline or facilities. Nearly all required actions will be temporary and disturbed areas will return to their existing – if not enhanced – condition. Furthermore, the project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemption as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. No unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental impact. The Agreement is also exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the Agreement may have a significant effect on the environment. Again, the majority of the required project actions are temporary in nature and once complete, will return to their prior condition. There is no potential for a physical environmental impact to occur. The SKR HCP contemplated such agreements for incidental take authorization under the HCP "in cases where an entity exempt from RCHCA member agency permits requests an incidental take authorization under this HCP." Approval of this Agreement and possible incidental take authorized under the Agreement was previously contemplated and considered when the SKR HCP was adopted.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

The project will generate approximately \$2,500 in Deposit Based Fees.

Attachment:

1. [Click to access the attachment: Agreement between the RCHCA and SoCalGas regarding Incidental Take authorization for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat for the Line 2000-D P2 Badlands Hydrostatic Test Project.](#)



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Single Signature Authority Report

Contact: Princess Hester, Administrative Services Officer, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to notify the Board of Directors of contracts recently signed under the Single Signature Authority of the Executive Director.

Requested Actions:

1. Receive and File
-

The Executive Director has Single Signature Authority for contracts up to \$50,000. For the months of September through November one contract was signed by the Executive Director:

1. In October 2020, a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) was executed with Sandy Stone for \$6,000 to assist in processing not for profit 501(c)(3) paperwork for the Riverside Communities Partnership Project.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts
Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on staff's efforts and meetings to discuss opportunities regarding species recovery efforts for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and File.
-

RCHCA was formed in 1990 under a Joint Powers Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 1, Chapter 5, Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code, for acquisition, administration, operation, and maintenance of land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. The Endangered Species Act was established in 1973 when Congress declared that various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States have been rendered extinct because of economic growth and development untampered by adequate concern and conservation.

The endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) is a species endemic to Western Riverside and Northern San Diego Counties. Recovery of an endangered species is considered when the critical levels that lead to that species' listing as endangered are fulfilled with sufficient population numbers and a low level of threats to maintain or increase populations in the future.

There are three major category listings for animals and plants under the Endangered Species Act. SKR is listed at the highest level, Endangered. Delisting of an endangered species occurs when a species is considered "recovered" from the critical levels that lead to that species listing as endangered with population numbers and low level of threats to maintaining or increasing populations in the future. RCHCA is pursuing the downlisting of SKR because RCHCA has demonstrated successful conservation efforts completed in Western Riverside County and the downlisting will align the federal listing with the state listing for SKR.

In September 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) published to the Federal Register a Proposed Rule to Reclassify SKR from Endangered to Threatened with a Section 4(d) Rule. The comment period closed on October 19, 2020, and USFWS is reviewing comments. The inclusion of Section 4(d) Rule is beneficial to all agencies that manage for SKR. The rule creates flexibility and reduces bureaucracy allowing some activities that do not harm the species to continue while focusing on the threats that make a difference to species' recovery. Staff anticipates the Final Rule will be published to Congress in early 2021.

Next Steps

RCHCA will continue to partner with USFWS and other agencies in support of SKR recovery. The geographic range of the SKR includes areas in northern San Diego County. While there have been efforts to support SKR recovery on military lands, other areas are in the beginning stages of creating suitable habitat. Several

agencies work to protect SKR under their prospective management plans. The challenge is that each of the various plans has different methodologies or requirements.

In 2021 RCHCA will focus on the implementation of the Species Range-Wide Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. Additionally, RCHCA continues species recovery efforts to support the 1997 Draft Recovery SKR Habitat Conservation Plan's finalization.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Agency Goals and Objectives

Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the Agency's goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and File.
-

In 2020, the RCHCA accomplished several milestones in demonstrating species recovery, preserving biological diversity through adaptive land management, and community involvement through educational outreach. The agency received financial grants and service contributions from partners such as the Bureau of Land Management, California Conservation Corps, Cal Fire, and the United States Department of Agriculture. These accomplishments create a platform to establish agency goals and objectives for 2021.

Species Recovery

RCHCA will partner with the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) and other invested stakeholders responsible for management of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) throughout the species' geographical range by establishing a Range-wide SKR Management Committee. The Committee will identify funding mechanisms and generate opportunities for shared resources.

The SKR Draft Recovery Plan of 1997 will require finalization. RCHCA will continue its legislative platform to ensure the wildlife agencies prioritize completing the final document while not creating any excessive burdens on the Agency. RCHCA, under contract with Conservation Biology Institute (CBI), developed a Habitat Suitability Model to predict SKR detection based on environmental conditions using satellite imagery. RCHCA staff will work with agencies to serve as advisors to develop ground-truthing processes to validate the model.

Land Management and Monitoring

RCHCA strives to apply advanced techniques for land management and monitoring. In the coming year, staff will focus on restoring several hundred acres of SKR habitat, the most ever conducted in one year, by broadcast seeding SKR preferred plants. In addition to SKR habitat enhancement, the RCHCA will conduct monitoring in half of the SKR Reserve system to identify the status and trends of SKR populations and assist with adaptive management goals. In order to increase available habitat, staff will be adding over 1,000 acres into the prescribed burn vegetation management program jointly administered by RCHCA and Cal Fire. This will require extensive biological and cultural surveys, but once complete, the program will result in an extensive expansion of RCHCA management areas. Finally, the RCHCA is working with the County of Riverside's Department of Waste Resources to develop conservation easements over RCHCA-owned riparian areas.

After the County purchases the easements, it will receive approximately 29 acres of riparian mitigation credits available to offset impacts to riparian areas by landfill expansions and transportation infrastructure projects.

Community Involvement and Educational Outreach

The Steele Peak Reserve Inaugural Trail conceptual design is complete. The next phase is to complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. Staff will conduct public outreach amidst COVID-19 protocols and continue seeking funding opportunities to support the Trail's full completion. Additionally, this Trail will benefit the community while dissuading illegal and harmful access to RCHCA-owned lands and protecting sensitive habitat.

In 2020, RCHCA could not complete its environmental education and outreach goals; therefore, staff is working with the Western Riverside Council of Governments' (WRCOG) Energy & Environment Department to publish online content that will maintain engagement from educators and students who participate in our events. Staff will also work to develop the Riverside Communities Partnership Project further and prepare for projects to complete in 2021. Staff will reengage with AmeriCorps to complete service projects in the subregion supporting wildland fire suppression, vegetation management, and other community-based service-learning assignments.

In conclusion, it is important to emphasize the success RCHCA has achieved in 2020 and to use this momentum as a catalyst for the upcoming year. Staff's definition of #whatsnext for the RCHCA is to continue pursuits to fulfill the mission of conservation, education, coordination, and collaboration.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Motte Rimrock Gift of Land

Contact: Princess Hester, Director of Administration, phester@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6704

Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide a report of the Motte Rimrock Gift of Land.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and File.
-

Motte Rimrock, originally founded by the Motte family in the 1960s, is a 715-acre ecological reserve and biological field station located on the western edge of Perris Valley. It is one of the eight Reserves dedicated to the protection of the endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR). The area is cooperatively managed by the RCHCA and the University of California, Riverside.

Past Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley recently donated 21.72 acres in the Motte-Rimrock Reserve to support the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of Motte as a research facility. The property will be held by the Regents of the University of California and used to further support research and conservation efforts of the University's Natural Reserve System, whose mission is to contribute to the understanding and stewardship of the Earth and its natural systems by supporting academic teaching, research, and public service at protected natural areas throughout California.

Prior Action:

None.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

1. Grant Deed of real property by Marion Ashley.

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Item 6.C

Motte Rimrock Gift of Land

Attachment 1

Grant Deed of real property by
Marion Ashley

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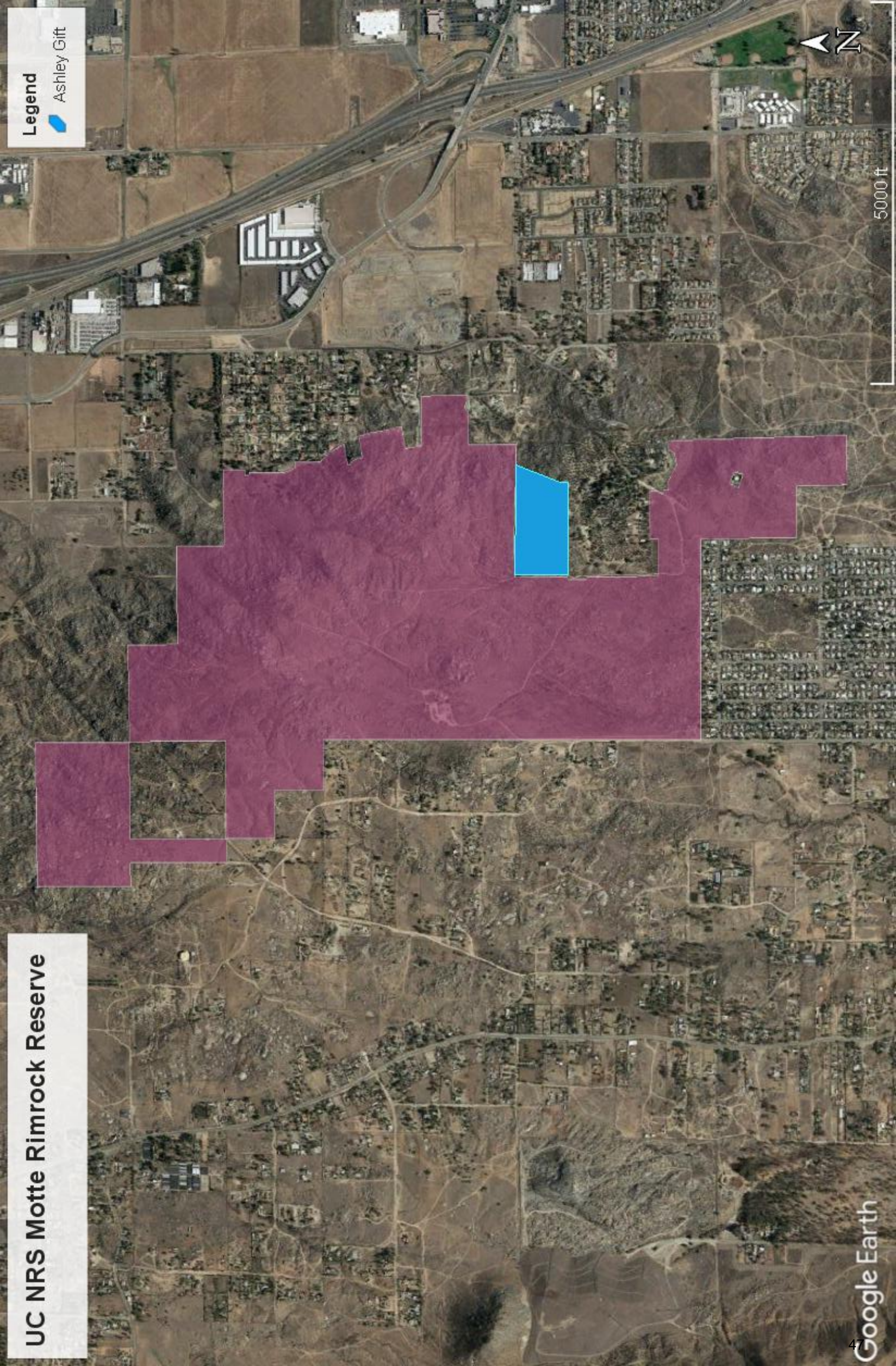
UC NRS Motte Rimrock Reserve

Legend



Ashley Gift

5000 ft



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AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL THIS DEED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN BELOW, MAIL TAX STATEMENT TO:

The Regents of the University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
Attn: Real Estate Services & Strategies

TITLE ORDER NO. 0227023006

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

GRANT DEED (Gift – Charitable Purposes)

APN: 326-020-032

No Recording Fee pursuant to Government Code 27383

THE UNDERSIGNED GRANTOR(S) DECLARE(S) DOCUMENTARY TRANSFER TAX is \$0.00. (This is a bonafide gift and the Grantor receives nothing in return, R & T 11911.)

FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, MARION V. ASHLEY and MARY E. ASHLEY, as Trustees of the Roico trust dated 11-11-1977 (“GRANTOR”), hereby GRANTS to the REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, a California public corporation (“GRANTEE”) all their right, title and interest in and to the real property located in the County of Riverside, State of California, commonly known as APN: 326-020-032. As further described on Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

GRANTOR:

MARION V. ASHLEY and MARY E. ASHLEY,
as Trustees of the Roico trust dated 11-11-1977

By: _____

Date: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS AS DIRECTED ABOVE

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

EXHIBIT "A"

The land referred to is situated in the County of Riverside, City of Perris, State of California, and is described as follows:

Parcel 1 of Parcel Map 26773, in the City of Perris, County of Riverside, State of California, as per map recorded in [Book 178, Pages 78 to inclusive of Parcel Maps](#), in the Office of the County Recorder of Riverside County.

APN: 326-020-032

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Regents of the University of California, the UC Riverside Foundation,
and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
and
Marion and Mary Ashley**

I. INTRODUCTION.

Marion and Mary Ashley are longtime residents of the Inland Empire. Marion Ashley grew up in the Nuevo and Perris areas and attended Perris High School. Growing up, he helped his family farm the land. Mr. Ashley, along with his wife, Mary, have established a fund to support the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of the Motte Rimrock Reserve as a research facility and a habitat for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat and other endangered species of the Reserve.

In keeping with the Ashleys' desire to preserve open space in the Perris Valley and to promote research on plant and animal species, Marion and Mary Ashley ("Donors") wish to irrevocably give to The Regents of the University of California, a California public corporation ("University"), with the conditions and purposes contained in this document, property located north of Rimrock Drive in Perris, California ("Gift") to benefit the Motte Rimrock Reserve ("Reserve"), managed by the University of California, Riverside ("UCR") through the University's Natural Reserve System ("NRS").

II. DESCRIPTION OF GIFT.

The gift of 21.72 acres of unimproved property in the City of Perris, assessor's parcel number 326-020-032 ("Property"). All rights, privileges, easements and appurtenances to the land and the improvements, if any, including all of Seller's right, title and interest, if any, in and to all mineral and water rights and all easements, rights-of-way and other appurtenances used or connected with the beneficial use or enjoyment of the land and the improvements.

III. PURPOSE AND USE OF GIFT.

The Property shall held by the University as part of the Reserve and used to further support the research and conservation efforts as the Reserve, a unit of the NRS, whose mission is to contribute to the understanding and stewardship of the Earth and its natural systems by supporting academic teaching, research and public service at protected natural areas throughout California. The University shall have the right to sell the Property at a later date under the following conditions: 1) the University determines in its sole discretion that the planned use of the Property requires an amendment of the Covenant, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs), recorded on December 30, 1992, and modified by Instrument Number 243994, recorded on July 11, 1997, and by Instrument Number

2013-0561458, recorded on December 2, 2013, and 2) despite reasonable commercial efforts over an 18 month period the University is unsuccessful in obtaining the amendment detailed above.

The Donor understands that the Gift will be administered by the NRS Executive Director in accordance with the University of California's guidelines and procedures.

IV. CONTINGENCIES.

The University's acceptance will be subject to the Regents' acceptance of the Property. At any time during prior to the scheduled Close, the University may in writing accept or reject the Property.

V. DONOR'S REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES.

Donor represents and warrants to the University that the following matters are true and correct as of the Effective Date, and shall be true and correct as of the Closing: Donor is unaware of (a) any legal proceedings or administrative actions of any kind or charges that may affect the Property or Donor's interest; (b) any notice from a municipality or government authority regarding outstanding violations, including hazardous or toxic substances on the Property; and (c) any leases, occupancy agreements and service contracts that may affect the Property.

VI. CLOSING.

The Donor and the University will attempt in good faith to complete the gift prior to December 31, 2019, meaning that the Grant Deed will be recorded in the Official Records of Riverside County.

VII. CLOSING COSTS.

The University will pay for an ALTA extended coverage owner's policy, and any costs associated with title endorsements it may require, closing costs, transfer fees (if any), and escrow fees.

All property taxes and assessments relating to the Property shall be paid in full by Donor on or before the Closing Date. Donor is responsible for all real and personal property taxes for the period of its ownership until the closing date. The Property will become exempt from property taxation upon ownership of the property by the University.

VIII. ESCROW.

Within three (3) business days prior to the scheduled Close, Donor shall deposit with the title company (i) a fully executed Grant Deed, attached as Addendum A, (ii) a executed Certificate of Non-Foreign Status, (iii) escrow instructions, (iv) approved settlement statement, and (iv) any other documents required by the Title Company in order to Close.

Within three (3) business days prior to the scheduled Close, the University shall deposit with the title

company: (i) PCOR, (ii) escrow instructions, (iii) approved settlement statement, (iv) funds required to close, and (v) any other documents required by the Title Company in order to Close.

IX. STEWARDSHIP.

The Donor agrees that this Gift and their names may be used in University communications.

X. COUNTERPARTS.

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which when taken together will constitute one and the same instrument. The signature page of any counterpart may be detached therefrom without impairing the legal effect of the signature(s) thereon provided such signature page is attached to any other counterpart identical thereto except having additional signature pages executed by other parties to this Agreement attached thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the Effective Date.

(signatures are found on the following page.)

ACCEPTANCES

Marion Ashley, Donor

Date

Mary Ashley, Donor

Date

Kathryn E. Uhrich, Dean
College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UCR

Date

Peter Hayashida, President
UC Riverside Foundation

Date


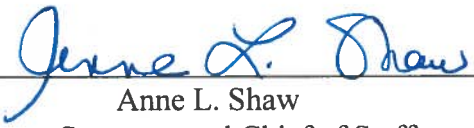
Douglas Stimpson
Executive Director, Capital Asset Strategies

Date

**SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE OF THE REGENTS'
ACCEPTANCE OF A CONVEYANCE OF REAL
PROPERTY AND ITS CONSENT TO RECORDATION**

This is to certify that the interest in real property situated in the County of Riverside, State of California, described on the attached Exhibit A conveyed by Grant Deed from MARION V. ASHLEY and MARY E. ASHLEY, as Trustees of the Roico Trust, dated 11-11-1977, or its designees, to THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, a California public corporation, is hereby accepted by the undersigned officer on behalf of The Regents of the University of California pursuant to authority granted under Bylaws 23.5(a) for the transaction approved by Associate Vice President Peggy Arrivas under delegated authority on December 13, 2019, in accordance with the Delegation of Authority – Capital Project Matters (DA 2629/DA2629A), issued by the President on April 5, 2019, and the grantee hereby consents to recordation thereof by its duly authorized officer.

DATED: 12/14/19

Anne L. Shaw
Secretary and Chief of Staff
to The Regents of the University of California

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Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update
Contact: Riana Fisher, Staff Analyst, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the Public Access Plan being developed for the Steele Peak Reserve.

Requested Action:

1. Approve the Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Concept Design Plan.
-

RCHCA manages over 40,000 acres of land conserved for the endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR). These lands reflect multiple ownerships, some of which are not currently open to the public, and they have different objectives as it relates to public access. Staff spends significant time and resources repairing and replacing fencing for unapproved access at many of the Reserves RCHCA manages. With direction from the Board, staff is working to prepare the Steele Peak Public Access Plan for one of the Reserve areas (Steele Peak). The idea behind the Plan is that the introduction of controlled, limited, public access will serve to dissuade illegal and harmful access to RCHCA lands, thus improving SKR habitat.

The Steele Peak Reserve is located adjacent to the City of Perris in unincorporated Riverside County. RCHCA owns approximately 200 acres of land that is conserved for SKR. Staff identified this area as being best suited for a pilot Public Access Plan because these lands are solely owned by RCHCA and the community would benefit greatly from the opportunity to experience and appreciate the natural environment that is being protected in this area.

RCHCA, in partnership with Alta Planning + Design, has completed the Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Concept Design Plan. In October, RCHCA staff met with the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (DWR) staff to conduct a site visit, and they are in full support of this project. RCHCA is securing a lease agreement with DWR to use its parking lot, which could accommodate up to 10 vehicles and would discourage the use of street parking.

All projects that require discretionary permits could result in an adverse change to the environment and are undertaken by a public agency subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Next Steps

The next step for the Steele Peak Inaugural Trail is to conduct an Initial Study to identify the appropriate CEQA action. RCHCA is also reviewing all Habitat Conservation Plans that may apply to the site, such as the SKR HCP and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan to ensure compliance. Staff biologists will be conducting baseline surveys within the project area in the near future to collect data to compare SKR populations before and after the installation of the trail to monitor their status.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors adopted Resolution Number 2020-03; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency approving the application for grant funds for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grant Program and authorized the Executive Director to sign and execute agreements and grant documents.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

1. Click to access the attachment: [Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Concept Design Plan.](#)



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update
Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of Natural Resources, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide a status update on the various tasks associated with RCHCA-contracted land management activities.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

RCHCA contracts with various entities to provide environmental land management services for protecting and enhancing threatened and endangered species and their habitats throughout Western Riverside County. RCHCA then uses these contract revenues to support staff salaries and other projects outside the purview of the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Fee revenue. The following report provides a brief summary of the current RCHCA contracts.

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

- Approximately 100 acres of SKR preferred plant seed was purchased under the BLM contract and will be used to restore SKR habitat within the Reserves.

Mariposa Biology / Waste Management at the El Sobrante Landfill Conservation Area:

- The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the State of California require that there is no net loss of wetland habitats through development projects. Waste Management contracts with RCHCA to restore streams and other riparian habitats in order to mitigate the El Sobrante Landfill's expansion impacts. The RCHCA successfully completed the requirements for restoring those areas required under the landfill's ACOE 404 and California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 permits.

Metropolitan Water District (MWD):

- The RCHCA continues to develop Cal Fire response maps for MWD lands near Lake Mathews. These maps and the subsequent coordination with Cal Fire will enhance their ability to quickly respond to any wildfire within the Lake Mathews Reserve. The maps will demonstrate the location of firefighting resources, such as gates, hydrants, and roads while also noting the location of sensitive cultural and biological resources.

United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):

- The RCHCA has developed a restoration plan and purchased the materials to carry out the final restoration

of the area. The plan will focus on restoring both native understory and overstory vegetation communities within the areas previously dominated by Giant Wild Reed (*Arundo donax*). Supplemental water will be used to ensure the threshold for plant survival is achieved. The RCHCA anticipates the NRCS's final approval and signoff by the end of Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

California Conservation Corps (CCC):

- The RCHCA was awarded approximately \$275,000 for CCC services to enhance rare species habitat, protect and restore wetland environments, and reduce fire fuels within wildland / urban interfaces. The CCC work is anticipated to begin in November 2020 and last through February 2021.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts Activities Update
Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of Natural Resources, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: November 19, 2020

The purpose of this item is to provide information on RCHCA management and coordination efforts occurring for RCHCA-owned lands at the Lake Mathews and Steele Peak Reserves.

Requested Action:

1. Receive and file.
-

During the current reporting period RCHCA has conducted the following actions:

- RCHCA staff monitored the Lake Perris State Park for Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR). A notable decline in habitat quality and SKR abundance was detected. RCHCA drafted a letter informing California State Parks of its commitment and obligation to the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan and that immediate action is required in order to sustain a viable SKR population within the Park.
- RCHCA hosted Cal Fire's Fire Investigator's training class at the Lake Mathews / Estelle Mountain Reserve during the weeks of October 19 and 26, 2020. Over 30 firemen were trained on ignition sources, fire behavior, and detection capabilities. In addition, over 38 acres of SKR habitat was enhanced through the prescribed fire conducted by the class.
- RCHCA staff worked with the Municipal Water District Real Property division to coordinate the placement of 90 K-rails along Tin Mine Road in order to protect the area from illegal dumping, off-highway vehicle activity, and other trespass.
- RCHCA replaced roughly 250 feet of chain link fencing within the Steele Peak Reserve that was stolen.

Prior Action:

September 17, 2020: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment:

None.