



RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY

**Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Board of Directors**

AGENDA

**Thursday, February 17, 2022
11:30 AM**

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

RCHCA'S OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 2713 5061

Password: 021722

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 361 (Government Code Section 54953) (AB 361). Pursuant to AB 361, WRCOG 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.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER ~ *Lesa Sobek, Chair***

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

5. 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.

6. 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. AB 361 Findings

Requested Action(s):

1. Affirm the findings of the Board of Directors in Resolution Number 2021-04, adopted on November 18, 2021, which are:
 - a. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and
 - b. State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

B. Summary Minutes from the November 18, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the Summary Minutes from the November 18, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

C. Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies Through December 31, 2021

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

D. Financial Report Through December 31, 2021

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

E. Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

F. Status Report on the Attendance Roster

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

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

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

H. Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Election of Leadership for Calendar Year 2022

Requested Action(s): 1. Nominate and elect Joseph Morabito, City of Wildomar, to service as the Chair for 2022.
2. Nominate and elect a Vice-Chair for 2022.

B. Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

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

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

D. Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the final Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Plan.

8. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Dr. Kurt Wilson

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS ~ *Members*

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

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ *Members*

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

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: AB 361 Findings
Contact: Dr. Kurt Wilson, Executive Director, kwilson@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6701
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Affirm the findings of the Board of Directors in Resolution Number 2021-04, adopted on November 18, 2021, which are:
 - a. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and
 - b. State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.
-

Purpose:

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

Background:

Assembly Bill (AB) 361 amends the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue using teleconferencing and virtual meeting technology in certain circumstances. Under AB 361, legislative bodies can continue to meet remotely as long as there is a “proclaimed state of emergency” and the Executive Committee 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.

The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist to this day. Further, both State and Riverside County officials continue to recommend the social distancing.

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 allowed the Board of Directors to implement AB 361 by making the findings discussed above. This finding 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 applies to any other RCHCA committee that meets 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.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors adopted Resolution Number 2021-04; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency authorizing virtual Board meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. The resolution includes the following findings: a) The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and b) State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Resolution No 2021-04 AB 361 findings](#)



RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL BOARD MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency ("RCHCA") is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors and the Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of RCHCA's legislative bodies, including its Board of Directors and the Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee, are 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 RCHCA'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 and Committee members; 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 RCHCA, specifically, a state of emergency has been proclaimed related to COVID-19 and state or local officials are recommending measures to promote social distancing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency as follows:

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

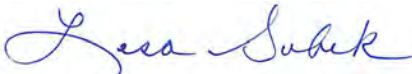
Section 2. Findings. Consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), the Board of Directors finds and determines that (1) a state of emergency related to COVID-19 is currently in effect, and (2) state or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection 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 and Reserve Managers Coordinating Committee, to conduct remote teleconference meetings under the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), and that such bodies shall provide public access to its 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. 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency on November 18, 2021.




Lesa Sobek, Chair
RCHCA Board of Directors



Dr. Kurt Wilson, Secretary
RCHCA Board of Directors

Approved as to form:



Aaron Gettis
RCHCA Legal Counsel

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the RCHCA Board of Directors was called to order by Chair Lesa Sobek at 11:30 a.m., on November 18, 2021, on the Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Tom Richins led the Board members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. 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 Temecula - Maryann Edwards
- City of Wildomar - Joseph Morabito
- County of Riverside - District 5 - Jeff Hewitt

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT AND POLICY CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: County of Riverside - District 5

SECONDER: Moreno Valley

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

A. AB 361 Findings

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 2021-04; A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency authorizing virtual Board meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. The resolution includes the following findings:

- a. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and
- b. State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

B. Summary Minutes from the September 16, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting

Action:

- 1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the September 16, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

C. Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies Through September 30, 2021

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

D. Financial Report Through September 30, 2021

This item was pulled for discussion by Chair Sobek, who asked for clarification regarding proposed amounts being much larger than last year.

Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Chief Financial Officer, explained the organization of the spreadsheet noting actual amounts, budgeted amounts, and any variance.

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Menifee

SECONDER: Perris

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

E. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 1st Quarter Budget Amendment

Action:

- 1. Approved the 1st Quarter Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

F. Status Report on the Attendance Roster

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

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

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

H. Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee

Action:

1. Received and filed.

I. Approval of the Schedule of Board Meetings for 2022

Action:

1. Approved the Schedule of RCHCA Board meetings for 2022.

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

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 2021-03; 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.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts

Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, reported that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently informed RCHCA that the final rule for downlisting SKR is delayed and is now anticipated to be published in the Federal Register at the end of November.

As part of the 4(d) rule with the downlisting, specific actions that aid in species recovery will be authorized, without having to go through the normal regulatory approval process for “take” authorization. Some of these actions include research, cattle grazing, habitat restoration activities, and survey and monitoring work.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

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

Harry Sandoval, RCHCA Natural Resources Manager, reported that staff assisted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division with abatement of illegal cannabis operation next to RCHCA-owned lands. The grow site was environmentally destructive and included, among other items, herbicides, pesticides, motor oil, and human waste. Arrests were made and charges were filed. There is an order in place to restore the area back to its native condition.

A few months ago, staff learned of an encroachment issue on the Lake Mathews property in which an adjacent landowner claimed approximately five acres of land and utilized it for growing fruit trees. Approximately 850 feet of fencing has been installed around the RCHCA-owned land and invasive plants were removed. Staff are now in the final stages of restoration.

In another matter, a property owner has constructed a house on RCHCA-owned land. Staff are working on an encroachment policy and will present it to the Board in the near future.

Staff are using data recently collected on stinknet and incorporating it back into the management system for tracking. Staff are currently using a new pre-emergent herbicide in order to limit germination.

Board member Russ Brown asked about the safety of the herbicide.

Mr. Sandoval responded that it is a widely used product approved for wildlands and has the lowest caution formulation available.

Chair Sobek asked if there is opportunity for reimbursement on the costs related to the cannabis grow site.

Mr. Sandoval responded that he is unsure of any reimbursables but will look into it.

Chair Sobek asked staff for a memo of information regarding the pre-emergent herbicide to distribute to member agencies.

Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, responded that the University of California, Riverside, has prepared a comprehensive brochure, and staff will forward that to the Board members, SoCal Gas, and Southern California Edison.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update

Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, reported that RCHCA and Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) launched the Implementation Phase of the Range-wide Management and Monitoring Plan.

A Technical Team has been assembled, which met for the first time on November 15, 2021. Future meetings will lead to the development of a detailed sampling plan as well as standard field data collection forms to be implemented during the 2022 monitoring season.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

D. Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update

Riana Fisher, RCHCA Program Manager, reported that RCHCA has completed its CEQA evaluation of the Steele Peak Inaugural Trail with consultant Ruth Villalobos & Associates, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was declared in October 2021.

The CEQA document went out for public review for comments between October 8 – November 7, 2021. RCHCA received a joint 17-page comment from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that requested a meeting to discuss the MND in further detail.

Staff, along with the CEQA consultant, are preparing for a meeting with both agencies for the first week in December.

After consultation and concurrence from USFWS and CDFW, the next steps will be to request the Board to adopt the MND, then send out Request for Proposals so that staff can begin construction and design of trail signage.

RCHCA legal is working with the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources legal on a lease agreement for a parking lot.

Action:

1. Approved the final Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Plan.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Temecula

SECONDER: Wildomar

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

7. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Dr. Kurt Wilson, General Manager, reported that staff are in the process of analyzing the Agency's long-term finances with regards to the future of development activity and the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Board may be hearing about the settlement agreement involving the World Logistics Center and the City of Moreno Valley, but no action is currently necessary.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Sobek wished everyone happy holidays.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status of Mitigation Fee Transfers from Member Agencies Through December 31, 2021
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the status of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) fee collections for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 as of December 31, 2021.

Background:

Member agencies impose a mitigation fee on certain types of development within their jurisdiction for the SKR. All SKR mitigation fees collected are forwarded to RCHCA before April 30, for the period January 1 through March 31; before July 31, for the period of April 1 through June 30; before October 31, for the period of July 1 through September 30; and before January 31, for the period of October 1 through December 31.

Revenues, including mitigation fees, are allocated in RCHCA's FY 2021/2022 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 FY 2021/2022 as of December 31, 2021.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed the report through September 30, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Status of Mitigation fee Transfers through December 31, 2021](#)

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022
RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY
NET STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT MITIGATION FEE COLLECTIONS BY MEMBER AGENCY
AS OF DEC 31, 2021

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL	PERCENT
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	FISCAL YTD	OF TOTAL
CITY OF CORONA	0	0	0										0	0.0%
CITY OF HEMET	0	0	0										0	0.0%
CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE	0	0	5,800			8,525							14,325	2.0%
CITY OF MENIFEE	42,040	0	150,843	250	521								193,654	27.4%
CITY OF MORENO VALLEY	0	0	15,815			25,448							41,263	5.8%
CITY OF MURRIETA	0	250	0	3,325	4,185								7,760	1.1%
CITY OF PERRIS		0	35,195			15,940							51,135	7.2%
CITY OF RIVERSIDE	0	0	0		285								285	0.0%
CITY OF TEMECULA	0	0	0	6,160									6,160	0.9%
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE *	0	101,825	263,615										365,440	51.8%
CITY OF WILDOMAR	0	0	0			25,960							25,960	3.7%
TOTALS	42,040	102,075	471,268	9,735	4,991	75,873	0	0	0	0	0	0	705,981	100%

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Financial Report Through December 31, 2021
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

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

Background:

Attached is the Financial Report summary through December 31, 2021.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed the report through September 30, 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - RCHCA Financial Report as of December 31, 2021](#)



**Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
Financial Statement
For the Month Ending December 31, 2021**

	Actual 12/31/2021	Budget 6/30/2022	Variance
Program: Administration			
Revenues and Transfers in			
RCHCA Revenue	705,981	630,000	(75,981)
Interest Revenue - Banks	3,603	20,000	16,397
RCHCA - Deposit Based Fee Draws	-	500	500
RCHCA - Revenue for Contracted Services	33,374	1,129,386	1,096,012
Total Revenues	\$ 742,958	\$ 1,779,886	\$ 1,036,928
Expenses			
RCHCA Salaries & Wages	68,954	149,886	80,932
Fringe Benefits	20,872	44,703	23,831
General Legal Services	7,985	30,000	22,015
Commissioners Per Diem	3,200	6,500	3,300
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	4,862	7,500	2,638
Automotive Equipment	23	100	77
Program/Office Supplies	780	5,000	4,220
Computer Equipment/Supplies	108	5,000	4,892
Rent/Lease Equipment	3,829	2,500	(1,329)
Membership Dues	1,936	500	(1,436)
Subscriptions/Publications	1,288	500	(788)
Other Household Exp (Gas)	7,569	10,000	2,431
Printing Services	2,606	5,000	2,394
Uniforms and Replacement Clothing	1,102	5,000	3,898
Small Tools & Instruments	1,811	3,000	1,189
Communications - Cellular Phones	2,794	10,000	7,206
Insurance - Gen/Busi Liab/Auto	48,313	50,000	1,687
License & Permits	100	3,500	3,400
Seminars/Conferences	1,750	5,000	3,250
Special Program Expense	3,000	20,000	17,000
Weed Abatement	393	15,000	14,607
Staff Education Reimbursement	309	7,500	7,191
Consulting Labor	74,785	837,000	762,215
Motor Vehicles Purchased	48,112	-	(48,112)
Operating Transfer Out (overhead)	143,934	287,868	143,934
Total Expenses	\$ 450,415	\$ 1,563,157	\$ 1,112,642



Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
 Financial Statement
 For the Month Ending December 31, 2021

	Actual 12/31/2021	Budget 6/30/2022	Variance
Program: Lake Mathews Reserve			
Revenues			
RCHCA - Revenue for Contracted Service	14,303	25,000	10,697
Lake Mathews Endowment Fund Drawdown	192,036	507,226	315,190
Total Revenues	\$ 206,339	\$ 532,226	\$ 325,887
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages - Fulltime	149,081	341,443	192,362
Fringe Benefits	45,127	125,783	80,656
Reserve Program Supplies	4,431	10,000	5,569
GIS Services	-	5,000	5,000
Consulting Labor	7,700	25,000	17,300
Total Expenses	\$ 206,339	\$ 507,226	\$ 300,887

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Contracted Land Management and Monitoring Activities Update
Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

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

Background:

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. Because RCHCA is a leader in innovative yet cost effective land management and monitoring techniques, other outside agencies and organizations often solicit RCHCA for assistance in managing their lands or mitigation projects. RCHCA then uses this contract revenue 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.

Conservation Biology Institute –SKR Range-wide Management & Monitoring Plan: RCHCA received a CBI invoice for the following deliverables: 1) Established and facilitated coordination groups and communications; 2) established a contract with Doug Deutschman (wildlife monitoring statistician) to estimate the Range-wide sampling plan for SKR; 3) facilitated a Technical Team meeting; 4) began developing a SKR Data Management System; and 5) updated reserve / ownership maps and SKR population maps to use in monitoring sampling plan.

- Total contract: \$213,461
- Total amount CBI invoiced for this period: \$14,937.50

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM): There are no revenue or invoices under the BLM agreement for this reporting period.

Mariposa Biology / Waste Management, Inc., at the El Sobrante Landfill Conservation Area: RCHCA completed riparian maintenance on the previously installed riparian restoration project as required under the El Sobrante Landfill's expansion permit requirements and conducted a small mammal biological survey of closed phases within the landfill.

- Total Contract: Riparian Restoration: \$8,837.00, Reptile / Mammal Survey: \$5,097.60
- Total amount RCHCA billed this period: \$879.00

Metropolitan Water District (MWD): The following tasks were performed and billed to the MWD contract during this period under:

- General On-Call Reserve Management: \$326.72
- Weed Management and Mapping Herbicide Purchase: \$3,487.76
- Reserve Patrol and Security: \$4,583.44
- Grassland Restoration: \$3,117.74

- Total Contract: \$160,000.00
- Total amount RCHCA billed this period: \$11,515.66

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Report on the Attendance Roster
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to provide a record of attendance at Board of Directors meetings.

Background:

The Joint Powers Agreement requires the RCHCA Board of Directors to hold at least four meetings per year.

Attachment 1 is the Board Meeting Attendance Roster as of December 2021.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Attendance Roster](#)

RCHCA BOARD MEETING Attendance Roster

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS	2021			
	February	May	September	November
Corona	X	X	X	X
Hemet	X	X	X	X
Lake Elsinore	X	X	X	X
Menifee	X	X	X	X
Moreno Valley		X	X	X
Murrieta	X	X	X	X
Perris	X	X	X	X
Riverside		X	X	
Temecula	X	X	X	X
Wildomar	X	X	X	X
County of Riverside	X	X		X

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

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

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

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

Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

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).

Background:

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve (SWMSR) Management Committee (September 1, 2021)

- No meeting was held during the current reporting period.

Lake Mathews RMC

- No meeting was held during the current reporting period.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Report Concerning Reserve Management Coordinating Committee
Contact: Harry Sandoval, Natural Resources Manager, hsandoval@wrcog.us, (951) 206-3260
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

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

Background:

The primary mission of the 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.

RMCC

No meeting was held during the current reporting period. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2022.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Election of Leadership for Calendar Year 2022
Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Nominate and elect Joseph Morabito, City of Wildomar, to service as the Chair for 2022.
 2. Nominate and elect a Vice-Chair for 2022.
-

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to request that the Board of Directors nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2022.

Background:

RCHCA Policy No. RCHCA-004 addresses the nomination and election of Board Officers. The Policy was implemented to provide guidance concerning the nomination and election of Board Officers and to ensure adequate opportunity for the rotation of said officers. The election must take place at the last scheduled meeting of the year.

RCHCA Board Member Council member Joseph Morabito has acted in the capacity of Vice-Chair for the past year. In accordance with the Board Policy, Board member Morabito shall become Chair for 2022 and has expressed interest in doing so. The RCHCA Board of Directors is being requested to nominate and elect a Vice-Chair to assume office in 2022. Under the Board Policy, the Board of Directors shall entertain nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, and the candidate receiving a majority vote will become the new Vice-Chair.

Prior Action(s):

February 18, 2021: The Board of Directors elected Mayor Pro-Tem Lesa Sobek as Chair and Council member Joseph Morabito as Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

Stipends are allocated annually and are included in the Agency's Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Status Update on Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Recovery Efforts
Contact: Brian Shomo, Director of RCHCA, bshomo@wrcog.us, (951) 840-8070
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Purpose:

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 (SKR).

Background:

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. RCHCA was formed in 1996 under a Joint Powers Agreement for acquisition, administration, operation, and maintenance of land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for the SKR.

In early December 2021, staff from the Carlsbad Office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) informed RCHCA staff that they have incorporated all comments for the Downlisting rule for SKR and it was sent to Sacramento for review and final publication, which is estimated around February or March 2022. In January 2022, the Sacramento headquarters Office of the USFWS responded that the SKR package is still at the headquarters level but has moved into the final review stage at the Office of the Executive Secretary. There are still several steps remaining in that review stage, but they are quite a bit closer to publishing the final rule in the Federal Register since the last update. Nonetheless, they are hesitant to provide an exact time frame.

RCHCA staff will continue to regularly request status updates from the USFWS and keep the Board apprised as the package moves forward.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Reserve Management and Monitoring Efforts Activities Update
Contact: Harry Sandoval, Natural Resource Manager, hsandoval@wrcog.us, (951) 206-3260
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Purpose:

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.

Background:

During the current reporting period of November 18, 2021 through February 17, 2022, RCHCA has conducted the following actions:

Under contract with Mariposa Biology, staff carried out a small mammal survey within habitat restoration sites of the El Sobrante Landfill. As part of the El Sobrante Habitat Conservation Plan, small mammal surveys are required by regulatory agencies to gauge the current condition of the restoration sites.

Staff carried out the restoration of 30 acres of grassland habitat and one acre of coastal sage scrub habitat at the Lake Mathews Reserve. Grassland restorations enhance habitat and foraging opportunities for Stephen's Kangaroo Rat (SKR). Restoring coastal sage scrub habitat can benefit a variety of native special status species. Part of the restorations were carried out as a task under the contract with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

Staff has been working with Cal Fire to update the Lake Mathews / Estelle Mountain Reserve Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). A VMP allows Cal Fire and land managers the opportunity to carry out prescriptive burns, and requires renewal every 10 years. During this renewal, over 4,000 acres of land will be added to the Lake Mathews / Estelle Mountain VMP.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors received and filed.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.

Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Board Meeting

Staff Report

Subject: Steele Peak Public Access Plan Activities Update
Contact: Riana Fisher, Program Manager, rfisher@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6708
Date: February 17, 2022

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the final Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Plan.
-

Purpose:

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

Background:

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 of Directors, staff is working to prepare the Steele Peak Public Access Plan at the Steele Peak Reserve. 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.

Staff held two meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on November 29, 2021, and December 13, 2021, to discuss the Mitigated Negative Declaration (Mit. Neg. Dec.) in further detail regarding the trail's compatibility with the SKR Habitat Conservation Plan and biological resource management. RCHCA requires the Agencies' concurrence in order to move forward with the trail's construction. On January 27, 2022, staff requested a decision from the Agencies and is awaiting their requirements for moving forward.

Prior Action(s):

November 18, 2021: The Board of Directors approved the final Steele Peak Inaugural Trail Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

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

Attachment(s):

None.