

# **WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORIZATION**

- A. **NAME.** The name of this agency shall be the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, hereinafter known as the Authority.
- B. **AUTHORIZATION.** The County of Riverside (“County”) and the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto and Temecula, by that Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated as of January 27, 2004 (“Agreement”) created the Authority for the purpose of acquiring, administering, operating and maintaining land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for certain rare, threatened and endangered species covered by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (“MSHCP”).

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, DUTIES & POWERS**

- A. **PURPOSE.** The Authority shall acquire, administer, operate and maintain land and facilities to establish habitat reserves for the conservation and protection of species covered by the MSHCP and to implement the MSHCP after the MSHCP is approved by the County and Cities and appropriate permits are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.
- B. **DUTIES AND POWERS.** Duties and Powers of this Authority are set forth in local, state and federal law and the Agreement, as may be amended from time to time. These duties and authorization include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. To make and enter into contracts;
  - 2. To employ agents, consultants, attorneys and employees;
  - 3. To acquire property, and any interest in property, both real and personal by purchase, gift, option, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise, and hold and dispose of such property;

4. To conduct and direct studies and to develop and implement plans to complement, modify or supplement the MSHCP;
5. To incur debts, liabilities, and obligations;
6. To sue and be sued in its own name;
7. To employ reserve managers and other personnel to operate, maintain, and administer the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
8. To be an applicant, make applications for, and receive grants from governmental and private entities and to participate in State bond issues;
9. To prepare project reports and applications, to qualify for grants, and to enter into grant contracts and to do all other things necessary to comply with State and Federal laws and regulations with respect to grants;
10. To borrow or receive advances of funds from its members or from such other sources as may be permitted by law;
11. To contract with its members and other entities who operate or will operate the habitat reserves established through implementation of the MSHCP;
12. To issue bonds, notes, warrants and other evidences of indebtedness to finance costs and expenses to carry out the powers of the Authority;
13. To acquire, hold, and dispose of equipment;
14. To lobby state and federal governments and their officials as well as private entities to obtain funding for implementation of the MSHCP and employ individuals or entities to conduct such lobbying activities on its behalf; and
15. To exercise all other powers common to the members not specifically mentioned above which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

- A. **REGULAR MEMBERS.** The regular members of the Board shall be the five members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and one member from each incorporated city who is signatory to the Agreement.

Written notification of the appointment of a City representative shall be provided to the Chairperson of the Board.

**B. ALTERNATE MEMBERS:**

1. Each member of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors may appoint an alternate member to the Board of the Authority and each City may appoint one alternate member to the Board of the Authority.
2. Each regular member and alternate member of a City must hold an elective office on the respective governing body appointing the regular or alternate member.
2. The Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) may appoint a city council member of a member city to represent the member as an alternate at meetings of the RCA Board or committees. Notice of the alternate appointment shall be made in writing to the chairperson of the RCA Board. In no event shall the same person serve as a city representative and alternate for a BOS member at the same meeting.
4. In the absence of a regular member, the alternate member shall, if present, participate in a meeting of the Board or committee the same as if the alternate member were the regular member.

**ARTICLE IV – TERM, VACANCIES AND COMPENSATION**

- A. **TERM.** Regular members and alternate members shall serve on the Board during the term for which they were appointed or until their successor has been appointed or their appointment has been revoked, whichever is earlier. However, a regular or alternate member’s position on the Board shall automatically terminate if and when the term of the elected public office of such regular or alternate member is terminated.
- B. **VACANCIES.** Any vacancy in the office of regular or alternate member, whether because of death, incapacity, resignation, loss of underlying office, removal or otherwise, shall be filled by the appointing authority for such member. When a vacancy occurs, it shall be the duty of the respective Party having the vacancy to promptly inform the Board of the name of the replacement regular or alternate member.
- C. **RESIGNATION.** Any regular or alternate member may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Authority’s Executive Director. Such resignation shall be effective at the time specified; acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

- D. REMOVAL. Any regular or alternate member may be removed, with or without cause stated, by the authority responsible for his or her appointment.
- E. COMPENSATION. Unless prohibited by law from accepting compensation, each regular and alternate member (when performing the duties of a regular member) of the Authority shall be compensated at the rate of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for any day attending to the business of the Authority, but not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) in any month, along with necessary traveling and personal expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties as authorized by the Authority.

### **ARTICLE V – VOTING**

- A. QUORUM. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and all official acts of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board. Each regular member or alternate member acting in the place of a regular member shall have one vote at meetings of the Board. However, any member of the Board, immediately after a vote of the Board and prior to the start of the next item on the agenda may call for a weighted vote.
- B. WEIGHTED VOTING. For an item to be passed by weighted vote, all of the following requirements shall be met:
  - 1. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, who each shall have one vote;
  - 2. the item shall be approved by a majority of the Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities, who each shall have one vote; and
  - 3. the item shall be approved by Board members present at the meeting who represent Cities representing a majority of an equal combination of 1) the population of the county living in incorporated areas within the boundaries of the MSHCP Plan area, and 2) the number of acres currently within the Criteria Cells in the incorporated areas as follows: *Banning – 78 acres; Beaumont – 10,098 acres; Calimesa – 3,380 acres; Canyon Lake – 303 acres; Corona – 2,315 acres; Eastvale – 1,024 acres; Hemet – 1,158 acres; Jurupa Valley – 5,039 acres; Lake Elsinore – 14,336 acres; Menifee – 249 acres; Moreno Valley – 2,325 acres; Murrieta – 8,726 acres; Norco – 733 acres; Perris – 3,181 acres; Riverside – 1,201 acres; San Jacinto – 4,580 acres; and Temecula – 3,917 acres; and Wildomar – 4,151 acres.* Population data shall be

determined through California Department of Finance estimates, adjusted annually.

In addition, the Board may, through resolution, revise the above-referenced number of acres due to the addition of a new member entity or other appropriate adjustments as the Board deems necessary.

## **ARTICLE VI – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. **ELECTIONS.** The Board shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson at its meeting every December, or as soon thereafter as practical. At least once every three years, the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall be a regular member of the Board who is a member of the Board of Supervisors. The term of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall commence on the first day of the month following the selection, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- B. **NOMINATIONS.** Any member of the Authority may nominate any regular member for an office contemplated in Section A. An individual receiving the majority of the votes for any of the offices shall be deemed to have been elected. Different procedures and requirements apply to the office of treasurer and controller, pursuant to Section E. and the Agreement.
- C. **RESIGNATIONS.** In the event an officer resigns or ceases to be an officer, the Board shall select a replacement therefore at the next regular meeting of the Board, or as soon thereafter as practical.
- D. **ABSENCES.** In the absence or inability of the Chairperson to act, the Vice Chairperson shall act as Chairperson.
- E. **APPOINTMENTS.** The Board shall appoint the treasurer of a member agency to serve as the Treasurer. The Board shall also appoint the finance director of a member agency to serve as the Controller.

## **ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- A. **CHAIRPERSON.** The duties of the Chairperson shall be to:
  - 1. Preside at all meetings of the Authority, provided that the Board, by a majority vote of the members present, may overrule any decision under this Section A.1 by the Chairperson at or during the meeting;
  - 2. Call special meetings of the Authority when necessary;

3. Appoint ad hoc committees, when necessary, including, without limitation, an Elected Officials Ad Hoc Committee described in the MSHCP.
- B. VICE CHAIRPERSON. The duties of the Vice Chairperson shall be to perform the duties and exercise the power of the Chairperson during the absence of the Chairperson.
- C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. The duties of the Executive Director shall be to administer the MSHCP, as defined above, in compliance with the duties and responsibilities set forth in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of the MSHCP, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time. The Executive Director shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Board including, without limitation, the administration of agency contracts. The Executive Director may, after consultation with the Chairperson, authorize contracts in an amount up to \$50,000 without prior Board approval. All such contracts shall be reviewed by legal counsel and shall be reported to the Board after execution. The Executive Director may not issue such contracts totaling more than \$50,000 1) to any one entity in any calendar year, or 2) to a group of entities working on a single project for the Authority. The Executive Director's authority for the purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment is limited to \$25,000.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

- A. AGENDA. Matters to be placed on the Agenda for any regular meeting or Committee meeting may be filed with the Executive Director of the Authority by any member of the Authority by the Thursday before such regular meeting or special meeting. The Agenda for each regular or special meeting shall be prepared under the control and direction of the Executive Director after consultation and concurrence by the Board Chairman or Vice Chairman, if the Chairman is not available. The Executive Director shall cause copies of the Agenda to be mailed or delivered to each regular and alternate member at least three (3) working days prior to the regular meeting date. During a Board or Committee meeting, any member may bring to the Board's attention any item of new business or request for action. Action on any matter of business not listed Agenda shall be deferred until properly listed on the Agenda for a subsequent meeting unless properly added to the Agenda as an item of subsequent need in accordance with Government Code, Section 54954.2. Notwithstanding, the provisions of this section, individual members of the Board may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the Authority at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

- B. **REGULAR MEETING.** A schedule of regular meetings of the Authority will be adopted by the Board annually. Regular meetings shall be held, to the extent feasible, at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California, or at such other location set by the Authority. Regular meetings may be canceled by majority vote of the Authority at a regular or special meeting prior to the meeting to be canceled. A regular meeting may also be canceled by the Chairperson for lack of a quorum or substantive agenda items. The Executive Director shall endeavor to mail or deliver notice of such cancellation to each regular member and alternate member at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the meeting.
- C. **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** A special meeting of the Authority may be called at any time by the Chairperson, or in his or her absence by the Vice Chairperson, or by any four (4) regular members by delivering personally or by mail written notice to the Executive Director and each regular and alternate member. Such notice shall be so delivered at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be transacted at such meeting. Such written notice may be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the Executive Director a written waiver of notice. Such waiver may be given by telegram or telecopier. Such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any regular or alternate member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.
- D. **POSTING OF AGENDAS.** The Authority shall post agendas of all regular meetings, containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, at least seventy-two (72) hours before such regular meeting. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the meeting and shall be posted at the County Administration Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, or at another location specified by the Chairperson that is freely accessible to members of the public. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on such posted agendas, except as permitted by state law.
- E. **RALPH M. BROWN ACT.** All meetings of the Board, including without limitation, regular, special and adjourned meetings, shall be called, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (commencing with Section 54950 of the California Government Code).
- F. **ADDRESSING AUTHORITY ON AGENDA ITEMS.** No person shall address the Authority at any meeting until he or she has first been recognized by the Chairperson. The decision of the Chairperson to recognize a person may be changed by vote of a majority of the members

of the Authority present at the meeting. When addressing the Authority, each individual speaker will be limited to three minutes or less of public testimony on each agenda item. The Authority may, either at the direction of the Chairperson or by a majority vote of the Authority, waive this three (3) minute time limitation.

## **ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. **FORMATION.** The following Standing Committees of the Authority are hereby created:

1. **The Funding Coordination Committee.** This Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board on funding priorities and MSHCP Conservation Area acquisitions. Additionally, this Committee shall provide a forum to discuss land acquisition priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and California Department of Fish and Game (“CDFG”) and acquisitions by other entities using non-local sources of revenue. It is envisioned that this Committee will meet at least twice annually. The Committee is not intended to address the acquisition of specific properties. The Board shall establish policies under which the Funding Coordination Committee shall make recommendations to the Board. Such policies shall include conflict of interest guidelines for the Committee members. Members of this committee shall consist of the Executive Committee Members, and representatives of the USFWS, and the CDFG. Member Agency Planning Directors shall be invited to participate in the meeting.
2. **Reserve Management Oversight Committee.** The Reserve Management Oversight Committee (RMOC) shall serve as the intermediary between the Reserve Managers and the decision making function of the Authority. The Executive Director or designee shall serve as Chairperson of the RMOC. The RMOC shall be composed of, at a minimum, one representative appointed by each of the following entities: USFWS, CDFG, Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space District, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Authority, and up to five (5) other private or public agencies or entities that own or manage land within the MSHCP Conservation Area.
3. **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members, and have at least two (2) and no more than three (3) representatives representing the County. The Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and past Chairperson, if any, of the Authority shall be members of the Committee. Two members of the

Executive Committee shall be selected by the Board at its first meeting in December, or as soon thereafter as practical. The remaining members shall be appointed by the Chairperson and ratified by the Board. The Executive Committee shall oversee Authority administrative functions, staff functions, recommend staff positions, job descriptions and salaries, and consider such other matters as delegated to it by the Board. In the event of a vacancy in the Committee, the Chairperson shall appoint a replacement, and said appointment shall be ratified by the Board.

4. Stakeholders Committee. The Stakeholders Committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson and ratified by the Board. The Committee shall be composed of up to sixteen (16) members, whose members shall be drawn from the following:
  - a. groups representing property owners affected by the MSHCP;
  - b. groups representing environmental interests implicated by the MSHCP; and
  - c. groups representing the building industry within the area affected by the MSHCP.
  - d. Committee members shall not be permitted to appoint alternates. The Committee shall meet when requested to do so by the Chairperson or Board. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary; however, reasonable efforts shall be made to hold committee meetings at least twice yearly. The Executive Director shall chair the meetings and facilitate discussion. The Stakeholders Committee shall review implementation plans from a stakeholder perspective and perform such other duties as directed by the Board.

- B. CONTROL AND SUPERVISION. In the performance of their duties and responsibilities, all Committees of the Authority shall submit all policy matters coming before them to the Authority for final consideration, unless otherwise specified by the Board. Committee members shall be appointed on an annual basis.

## **ARTICLE X – CORPORATE POWERS**

- A. SUCCESSION. The Authority has perpetual succession and may adopt a seal and alter it at its pleasure.

- B. LITIGATION. The Authority may sue and be sued, except as otherwise provided by law, in all actions and proceedings, in all courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction.
- C. CLAIMS. All claims for money or damages against the Authority are governed by Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code except as provided therein, or by other statutes or regulations expressly applicable thereto.
- D. MOTIONS, REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES. The acts of the Authority shall be expressed by motion, resolution, or ordinance. All ordinances shall take effect upon their adoption. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be as follows: "The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority hereby ordains as follows: "All ordinances shall be signed by the Chairperson or by the Vice Chairperson of the Authority.

#### **ARTICLE XI – CONTRACTS**

The Authority may make contracts and enter into stipulations of any nature whatsoever either in connection with eminent domain proceedings or otherwise, including but not limited to, contracts and stipulations to indemnify and save harmless, to employ labor, and to do all acts necessary and convenient for the full exercise of the powers authorized by law. The Authority may contract with any Department or Agency of the United States of America, with any public agency (including, but not limited to, the County, WRCOG, CDFG or USFWS), or with any person upon such terms and conditions as the Authority finds is in its best interest.

#### **ARTICLE XII – REIMBURSEMENTS**

- A. PERSONS SUBJECT TO REIMBURSEMENT PROVISIONS. These Reimbursement Provisions ("Provisions") shall be applicable to all members of the Authority's legislative bodies, as defined in Government Code section 54952, provided such persons receive compensation for actual and necessary Authority expenses ("Official"). Legislative Bodies include, but are not limited, to the Board of Directors, the Funding Coordination, the Reserve Management Oversight Committee, the Executive Committee and the Stakeholders Committee.
- B. PURPOSE. The purpose of these Provisions is to provide guidelines for the reimbursement of any Official for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Whenever issues of reimbursement arise, the Authority shall adhere to Government Code sections 53232.2 and 53232.3.

C. TRANSPORTATION

1. Use of Personal Vehicle. The Authority shall reimburse for mileage incurred when personal vehicles are used to attend Board and Committee meetings and conferences or other meetings approved by the Board or Executive Director and in furtherance of the Authority's affairs. Authority will reimburse mileage for travel to and from the destination based upon the approved Internal Revenue Service rate in effect.
2. Rentals. The Authority shall reimburse for actual and necessary vehicle rental expenses. The Authority shall only reimburse economy or compact rate vehicles unless (i) such class of vehicle is unavailable; or (ii) such class of vehicles do not accommodate a disability. When an Official rents a vehicle, he or she shall obtain insurance for the vehicle at the Authority's expense.
3. Shuttle, Bus, Taxi, and Public Transportation. Shuttle, bus, taxi, and public transportation may be used between an airport, hotel and conference site whenever it is available. Officials are encouraged to use the most efficient mode of transportation available.
4. Air Travel or Other Common Carrier Transportation. As necessary for the performance of their official duties, Officials may use air travel or other mode of common carrier transportation to and from the destination.

D. LODGING. Lodging costs shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that lodging at the group rate is available. If a group rate is not available, the government rate of the provider of lodging shall be used. If neither the group nor government rates are available, the Authority shall reimburse lodging at a rate not exceeding \$300.00 per night without Board approval. For lodging in high costs cities (e.g., San Francisco, New York, Washington., D.C.), the Authority will reimburse at a rate not exceeding \$490.00 per night without Board approval. Lodging reimbursement rates will be adjusted annually according to the CPI in the applicable metropolitan statistical area.

E. MEALS. The actual costs of meals incurred while attending conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the Authority's affairs are reimbursable provided the Authority's staff is given a receipt. Meal costs shall be reimbursed at an amount not exceeding the greater of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day or the applicable Internal Revenue Service rate.

F. PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES NOT REIMBURSABLE. The Authority shall not reimburse the cost of

transportation, lodging, meals, or other costs of travel when such costs are of a personal nature incurred in conjunction with the performance of official duties. Personal costs, not reimbursable by the Authority, shall include, but not be limited, to the following: (i) alcoholic beverages; (ii) parking and traffic violations; (iii) entertainment; (iv) services provided by the provider of lodging; and (v) expenses incurred on behalf of a spouse, dependent, or traveling companion.

- G. **CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS.** Officials shall only receive reimbursement of travel, lodging, and meals for conferences or other meetings in furtherance of the Authority's affairs. No other occurrences will be reimbursed.
- H. **EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THESE PROVISIONS.** Occurrences or expenses which do not fall within these Provisions or the Internal Revenue Service reimbursable rates must be approved by the Board in a public meeting before the expense is incurred.
- I. **EXPENSE REPORTS.** The Authority shall not reimburse any expenses until an expense form is submitted to the Authority's administrative office no later than 45 days of the expenditure. Expense forms shall be accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Furthermore, Officials will be required to provide a brief report on the conference or meeting attended at the next regular meeting of his or her respective legislative body.
- J. **CPI INCREASE.** The dollar limits referenced herein shall be automatically updated annually pursuant to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

### **ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

- A. **ADOPTION.** These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Authority by a majority vote.
- B. **PROPOSAL.** Any Authority member may propose a Bylaw amendment. Such proposal shall be in writing and shall be referred to the Chairperson who shall report the proposed amendment with recommendation to the Authority. All regular members shall receive at least four (4) weeks notice of any amendments to these Bylaws. Notice may be provided on a Board Meeting Agenda of the Board or by separate notice delivered by mail, e-mail or facsimile to the regular member.

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