

# WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES NOVEMBER 30, 2000

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

Gail Wanczuk-Barton called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Karin Watts-Bazan	County Counsel
Kristi Lovelady	TLMA
Clem D. Lagrosa *	U.S. Forest Service
Sharon Bolton *	Farm Bureau
Bill Sullivan *	Lockheed Martin
Peter Kiriakos *	Sierra Club
Wes Spelsen * (Larry LaPre)	Audubon Society
Zully Smith *	Riverside County Flood Control
Bruce Colbert *	Rvsd County Property Owners Assoc.
Dan Silver *	Endangered Habitats League
Gail Wanczuk-Barton *	Committee Chair / Property Owner
Mary Beth Woulfe *	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff Newman	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Glenn Black *	California Department of Fish & Game
Ed Sauls *	Property Owner
Bill Blankenship *	Building Industry Association
Won Yoo *	Property Owner
Tom Scott *	University of California, Riverside
Jim Sullivan	University of California, Riverside
Mike Allen	University of California, Riverside
Bob Wheeler *	EMA / RCD
Greg Reden *	Property Owner
Tracey Alsobrook *	Southern California Edison
Shenna Moqeet	City of Calimesa
Laurie Thrower	The Press Enterprise
Geary Hund	California State Parks
Joan Rudisil	Nossman Law Firm
Ashwani Vasishth	USC
Ileene Anderson	California Native Plant Society
Dave Downey	The Californian
Gerald Ginn	Conservation Alliance
Jerry Geller	Conservation Alliance
Bill Sweeney	Property Owner
Brett Dawson	Riverside County Flood Control
Jeff Montejano	Stoorza Communications

Mary L. Thomas	U.S. Forest Service/Cleveland National
Sandy Wilson	SRCA Realtors / Landowner
Norman Gritton	Property Owner
Pamela Miod	CFTV
Alexa Washburn	City of Norco
Garry Grant	Meadowbrook
Barbara Darracq	Warmington Land Company
Steve Brown	City of Temecula
Nelson Miller	City of Perris
John Freiman	City of Canyon Lake
Jim Miller	City of Murrieta
Chris Ormsby	City of Moreno Valley
Vahas Sekas	SE Corporation
Susan Hoffman *	RC RCD
Lisa Northrop	San Bernardino County
Steve Lech	Riverside County Waste Management
Michael Rowe	Property Owner
Richard Masyczek	City of Hemet
Joel Schultz	Bureau of Land Management
Michael O'Connell	The Nature Conservancy

\*Denotes Advisory Committee member

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Garry Grant, Meadowbrook property owner, expressed concern that millions of dollars had been spent on protecting the K-Rat, but questioned whether the program had worked. He continued by stating that he believed it was too late to worry about endangered species protection programs and felt that the Advisory Committee was late in advising citizens of its activities.

Jim Miller, City of Murrieta, requested a fiscal analysis of the MSHCP to determine the true costs of the plan. He expressed concern over the interim funding fee as proposed by the BIA, stating that an estimated 20 times that amount would be needed just for the City of Murrieta. Lastly, acknowledging that the City of Murrieta had not yet endorsed the land use plans, he asked that the Integration Committee treat the CETAP endorsement of the Clinton-Keith corridor from Highway 79 to the 215 Freeway as a package deal that would allow commercial/industrial property to be developed around the permitted corridor.

Shenna Moqheet, City of Calimesa, expressed concern over public use of publicly funded land set aside for species protection. Kristi Lovelady responded that it was the county's intent to address a public use component that would integrate with the species protection objectives of the MSHCP.

**3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS CONCERNING ISSUES NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

Peter Kiriakos, Sierra Club, opined that discussions might be required regarding a proposal in San Bernardino County to pursue an Inland Valley Multi Species Plan and integration of several habitat issues.

**4. REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON A JOINT RCIP SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE CETAP CORRIDORS WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL PLAN AND MSHCP.**

Gail Wanczuk-Barton, Committee Chair / Property Owner, explained the organization and goal of the committee. Appointed members from their respective committees are as follows:

**MSHCP**

Cindy Domenigoni  
Bob Wheeler  
Jane Block

**CETAP**

Borre Winckel  
Dan Silver  
Barry Burnell

**GPAC**

Sharon Bolton  
Bill Warkentin  
Pete Kiriakos

Tom Scott was appointed as an ad hoc member.

The first meeting will be held Monday, December 11, 2000 at Sverdrup Civil, Inc.

**5. REPORT FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Kristi Lovelady reported that due to a death in the family, Mr. Lashbrook's presentation of the revised funding matrix would be delayed. It will be presented at the December 7, 2000 committee meeting. She reported that at the direction of the sub-committee the consultant and staff provided documentation and data that illustrated potential reductions in the overall cost of the plan. Elements examined included areas with existing land use constraints, and lands with urban and rural designations.

June Collins distributed an MSHCP Alternatives Summary Based on Constrained Areas, Parcel Size/Land Use Designation Groupings and CETAP Corridors for potential use in reducing the acquisition budget. Ed Sauls briefly summarized his interpretation of the materials offered by Dudek and concluded that the majority of the additional acres required in moving from Alternative 3 to Alternative 1 would be in rural designation and therefore be less costly and may have constraints.

**6. USFWS ORAL PRESENTATION OF THE JOINT DRAFT COMMENTS CONCERNING THE ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT.**

A document titled "Wildlife Agencies Presentation Overview" was distributed and presented by Jeff Newman of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). He also advised that the final joint agency response to the Alternatives Development Document would be finalized and submitted by December 4, 2000.

After the presentation several questions were asked. Dan Silver asked if the information to be provided would be of use to the Integration Committee in relation to their discussions on corridor issues. Ed Sauls asked for clarification of the number of species that the USFWS believes to have adequate information for coverage. Mary Beth Woulfe clarified that there was currently enough information on 111 species to bring forward to the next stage of analysis, not coverage. Dan Silver asked if there were any key, listed or proposed species that did not have the level of information to move forward to the next step of analysis. Mary Beth Woulfe responded that there might be, however the list would not be available until the release of the letter.

Glenn Black stated that Alternative 1 was consistent with NCCP guidelines, and as such, would be eligible for State, and possibly Federal funds.

**7. DISCUSSION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT (SEE ATTACHED RESPONSES RECEIVED THUS FAR FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, AND THE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE).**

Alison Shilling, California Native Plant Society, offered an opinion of support for Alternative 1 and expressed concern that Alternative 2 did not address narrow endemics. Bob Wheeler opined that, based on the Scientific Review Panel analysis, and comments from USFWS that Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 are unacceptable and Alternative 1 is the only one that should be chosen to move forward.

Michael O'Connell introduced Dr. Wayne Spencer of the Conservation Biology Institute, who had conducted evaluation at the request of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. O'Connell added that there weren't any particular differences in their comments from the other groups and stated that The Nature Conservancy supported the MSHCP process. He expressed concern that State and Federal money may not be available for Alternatives 2, 3 and 4. In addition he stated that connectivity included in Alternative 1 is crucial to the maintenance of any viable reserve system and suggested that a biologically preferred alternative would contain connectivity and covered species issues required for long-term survival.

**8. REPORT OF WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGARDING THE SRP RESPONSE TO ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT.**

Kristi Lovelady distributed a letter that had been received from the legal counsel of the Domenigoni / Barton family. Gail Wanczuk-Barton announced that the letter would be agendaized for the December 7, 2000 meeting of the Advisory Committee. Bob Wheeler reviewed a letter that he had written to Cathy Bechtel of RCTC, and emphasized that the MSHCP is (or should be) a biological document. The MSHCP should be an element of the RCIP. As such, Mr. Wheeler cautioned that the document was not sufficiently refined to begin narrowing transportation options without regard to biological consequences.

**9. PRESENTATION OF REVISED DRAFT FUNDING MATRIX.**

Kristi Lovelady announced that this item would be brought back at the December 7, 2000 meeting.

**10. QUESTIONS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

Bob Wheeler requested that documents relevant to defining the role of the Scientific Review Panel be circulated. Kristi Lovelady said she would have the documents for the December 7, 2000 meeting. Peter Kiriakos, Sierra Club, asked that Riverside County Flood Control District address the issue of wetlands and streams relevant to connectivity. Zully Smith, County Flood Control, responded that they were looking at these issues through a newly formed program, SAMP – Special Area Management Plan, associated with the RCIP and through that would be addressing the wetland/stream issue. Mr. Kiriakos requested that the program be discussed by the Advisory Committee.

**12. FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Masyczek, representative for City of Hemet requested that public comment be allowed as part of each individual agenda item.

Michael Rowe, property owner, questioned the agencies' ability to comply with the boundaries of MSHCP and stated the concern that Critical Habitat Designations would take precedence over any other boundaries, thus negating the MSHCP.

Nelson Miller, representative for City of Perris, called attention to the importance of the role that Flood Control plays and specifically addressed an August 22, 2000 letter and urged that the San Jacinto River linkage problem be resolved prior to the December 19, 2000 meeting.

Garry Grant, property owner in Meadowbrook, emphasized the importance of public comment and expressed concern that the Alternatives Document was not open for public discussion. He also questioned the truthfulness of independent agencies and their decision-making processes.

Ileene Anderson, CNPS, reiterated their support for Alternative 1. She urged the Funding & Implementation Sub-committee to entertain a presentation by Joe Grindstaff regarding Proposition 13 monies. Pete Kiriakos added that several million dollars of the \$200 million set aside for the Santa Ana River maintenance and restoration, is a potential source of funds. Joe Lewis confirmed that there are environmental restoration funds available through proposition 13, specifically \$3 million for acquisition of habitat.

Geary Hund, California State Parks, expressed his concern over public comment, concluding that a healthy public discussion should take place prior to a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Lisa Northrop suggested that the County look for opportunities in which to apply Tax Credit Act of 2000. This is a tax program whereby 55% of the assessed value of the land can be credited to the landowner by establishing a conservation easement or donating their land to a conservation program. Michael O'Connell, added that property owners could receive as much as a 100% credit - 55% state tax credit, 35% federal write-off, 10% savings on capital gains incurred by selling property

**11. NEXT MEETING.**

The next meeting is December 7, 2000 at 2:30 p.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00.