

**DATE:** January 28, 2010

**TO:** WCA Governing Board

**FROM:** Belinda V. Faustinos, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** **Item 14: Consideration of a resolution adopting a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Gabriel Valley COG, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council for the Watershed Coordinator work.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council for the implementation of the Watershed Coordination Program.

**BACKGROUND:** The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding to identify the Watershed Conservation Authority as a key partner in implementing watershed goals established in the comprehensive San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Watershed Management Plans and to coordinate those objectives with the other watershed programs administered by the Watershed Conservation Authority and other MOU participants. This MOU also recognizes the WCA as the staffing entity for the employment and supervision of the Watershed Coordinator and directly aligning reimbursement with the entity incurring implementation costs.

The program goals and objectives seeks to improve watershed health and address the negative impacts, primarily a result of urbanization, that have degraded the quality and beneficial uses of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds. The Watershed Coordinator will organize a formal framework through which to build on the momentum established in these Watershed Management Plans and bring actual, physical improvement to two major foci of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds: the Rio Hondo and Upper San Gabriel sub-watersheds. Although the Rio Hondo lies within the Los Angeles River Watershed, its inclusion in this proposal with the San Gabriel River is consistent with the boundaries set forth by the Integrated Regional Watershed Management plan.

The goals to be pursued by the Watershed Consortium and managed by the Watershed Coordinator are aligned with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program goals to efficiently use the water supply, improve water quality, and restore the ecosystem. The Watershed Conservation Authority, along with technical support and assistance from the Watershed Council, provide a unique combination of experience and provide a unifying voice and source of cross-jurisdictional cooperation which positions the agencies as natural partners in forwarding collective action for watershed-related objectives. The Watershed Coordinator will spearhead efforts to combat the current harmful conditions in and around the watershed by pursuing improvements to water quality, habitat quality, open space, and recreational opportunities.

Funding for the work of the Watershed Coordinator has been provided through a grant from the Department of Conservation (DOC) and supplemented with cash flow and gap funding from a redirected grant from the RMC to implement and further the goals and objectives of the program. (Exhibit B: Funding Source Summary) The attached amended Memorandum of Understanding provides the framework for implementation of this program and delineates the responsibilities for each of the partners. At this time it is proposed that the Memorandum of Understanding term of agreement extend to June 30, 2011 with a six (6) month optional extension coinciding with the three year term (plus potential six month extension) of the DOC grant.

**FISCAL:** Funding associated specifically with the adoption of the MOU amounts to \$191,876 (Exhibit B) in grant funding reimbursable to the WCA by the SGVCOG from a grant awarded by the Department of Conservation for implementation of the Watershed Coordinator Program.

**Exhibit A****Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding**

Effective January 25, 2010

THE UPPER SAN GABRIEL AND RIO HONDO WATERSHED PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY, WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND THE LOS ANGELES AND SAN GABRIEL RIVERS WATERSHED COUNCIL

WHEREAS, The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established as a joint powers agency between the RMC and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to implement projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed and to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects and has been identified as a key partner for the implementation of the Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Watershed Program.

NOW THEREFORE; The Parties agree to the following amended memorandum of understanding:

The above recital is hereby incorporated into the Memorandum of Understanding by this reference.

I. General Conditions

- A. The Watershed Conservation Authority is added as a party to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- B. The term of agreement is extended through June 30, 2011. The term may be further extended through December 31, 2011 by mutual agreement of all Parties and contingent upon an authorized six-month extension by the Department of Conservation.

II. Responsibilities of each of the Parties

- A. SGVCOG (No change)
- B. RMC (Remove sections 1 through 9 and substitute the following)
  - 1. Provides cash flow and program gap funding to the WCA in support of the Watershed Coordinator Program.
  - 2. Provides program match funding to LASGRWC for the implementation of select program deliverables of the Agreement.
  - 3. Provides additional program funding to WCA for the implementation of expanded program deliverables in support of Agreement.

C. WCA (Adds the following new provisions)

1. Provides for staffing and direct supervision of the Watershed Coordinator.
2. Provides in kind operating costs, printing, postage, office supplies, rent and telephone services.
3. Provides for all WCA reports, billing documentation and back-up to SGVCOG in support of quarterly DOC reporting and reimbursement invoicing.
4. Provides staff and/or contracted labor payroll and benefits and billing thereof to the SGVCOG with documentation of these salary/benefit expenses separate from any associated overhead expenses that are otherwise funded by other.
5. Reimburses staff for operating costs, specifically mileage, parking, and conference travel, per diem, and registration not directly paid by the SGVCOG as provided for in DOC grant agreement budget.
6. Provides staff and/or contracted labor and thereby provides for all insurance and benefits.
7. Provides for the implementation of expanded program deliverables funded by supplemental RMC grant funds.

D. LASGRWC (Adds the following new provision)

1. Provides for the implementation of select program deliverables utilizing matching RMC grant funds.

All the other terms and conditions remain the same.

For the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Watershed Conservation Authority

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exhibit B

## Watershed Coordination Implementation Funding Source Summary

Funding Source Distribution				
	DOC GRANT WCA	RMC09103 WCA	RMC08107 LASGRWC	Total RMC Funding (D+F)
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>				
Watershed Coordinator/WCA Staff	\$186,834	\$94,640	\$19,797	\$114,437
Administration		\$15,000		\$15,000
LASGRWC Coordination Support			\$19,500	\$19,500
Technical Assistance			\$18,750	\$18,750
<b>Equipment</b>				
Supplies	\$300	\$5,000		\$5,000
<b>Operating Costs</b>				
Mileage	\$3,492	\$2,523	\$600	\$3,123
Map Printing		\$1,400	\$140	\$1,540
Workshop attendance	\$750			
Consultants (Planning, Design, Grant Writing Support)		\$50,000		\$50,000
Community Outreach			\$22,650	\$22,650
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$191,876</b>	<b>\$168,563</b>	<b>\$81,437</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$191,876</b>	<b>\$168,563</b>	<b>\$81,437</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

January 28, 2010 - Item 14

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-35

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ADOPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COG, THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND LOS ANGELES AND SAN GABRIEL RIVERS WATERSHED COUNCIL FOR THE WATERSHED COORDINATOR WORK.

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority has been established as a joint powers agency between the RMC and the District to implement projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has further been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; NOW

*Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:*

1. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. ADOPTS Memorandum of Understanding for purposes of the Watershed Conservation Authority, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council for the Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Watershed Program Implementation project with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Watershed Conservation Authority and the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.
3. ADOPTS the staff report dated January 28, 2010.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

Resolution 2010-35

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
WATERESHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
ON January 28, 2010.

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Teresa Villegas, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Terry Fujimoto  
Deputy Attorney General