## SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisors Marion Ashley and John J. Benoit

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 23, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Riverside County Works (RCW)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors, in good faith, direct all county departments, special districts, and or agencies issuing Requests for Qualifications, Requests for Proposals, Sole Sourced projects, and competitively bid construction, road, and or housing projects of all types to strongly encourage all bidders and the successful Lowest Responsible Bidders or sole source contract recipients to hire 60 percent of all project workforce from within the legal boundaries of the County of Riverside. Further, those successful bidders make a good faith effort in attempting to comply with the Board of Supervisors intent. Riverside County Works (RCW) would "sunset" at such time as the State of California, Employment Development Department, reported three consecutive quarters that county wide unemployment has been reduced to 6.0 percent. That the Assistant County Executive Officer-EDA, or his designee, serve as the monitor of this effort and report the known results of the effort back to the Board of Supervisor in 12 months.

BACKGROUND: Riverside County has 130,000 plus members of its workforce unemployed. This number represents approximately 15.1 percent of the workforce of the County of Riverside. Discouraged workers and those who have exhausted Unemployment Insurance are estimated to make up an additional 11 percent of that population by some studies. In order to reduce unemployment levels and return residents to work "Riverside County Works" may enable local residents to return to full employment in the construction and development trades in the near future, thus reducing unemployment. It should be noted that the Board of Supervisors previously issued a MANDATORY requirement for local hiring during the permitting process for the Diamond Valley Reservoir. The constructors complied with the mandate, no litigation was filed to overturn the board decision, and the effort helped the County of Riverside reduce unemployment records to historic lows and also provided highly valuable job training programs to our residents employed during the construction phases of the reservoir project. If it is reported by the Assistant County Executive Officer-EDA that Riverside County Works is not having the desired outcome of putting our residents back to work, the Board of Supervisors reserves the option of making the program mandatory.

Marion Ashley, Supervisor

Fifth District

John J. Benort, Supervisor

Fourth District

Consent

12345astmental Concurrence

Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

3.60