

SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM  
11.4  
(ID # 3954)

MEETING DATE:  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

FROM : FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT: Receive and File the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report and Direct the District to Develop a Master Drainage Plan Consistent with the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report; 5th District; {\$300,000 in FY 17/18}; District Funds 100%

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report; and
2. Direct the District to develop a Master Drainage Plan consistent with the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report.

ACTION: Policy

Handwritten signature of Jason Uhley in black ink.

Jason Uhley

3/30/2017

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Ashley, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: Washington  
Date: April 11, 2017  
xc: Flood

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board

By: Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD  
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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 25140 947460 525440 ZONE 4 CONST/MAINT/MISC - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> No	
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> 17/18	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

At the December 15, 2015 Board of Supervisors' Meeting, Supervisor Marion Ashley recommended the formation of the Lower San Jacinto River Advisory Committee (Committee) to assist the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) with establishing a vision for managing the San Jacinto River Floodplain between the Ramona Expressway and Railroad Canyon.

The Committee included representatives from the County, District, City of Perris, regional transportation and conservation authorities, and environmental and developer interests. The San Jacinto River Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report provided a detailed report of the Committee activities. The recommendations of the Committee are summarized below.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Marion Ashley	Riverside County Supervisor, 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Daryl Busch	Mayor, City of Perris
Dusty Williams (retired) and Jason Uhley	General Manager-Chief Engineer Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Charles Landry	Executive Director, Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)
Anne Mayer	Executive Director, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
Russell Williams	Environmental/Development Review Division Manager, Riverside County Transportation Department (RCTD)
Paul D. Jones II	General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD)
Dan Silver	CEO, Endangered Habitats League (EHL)
Brett Feuerstein	New Perris Specific Plan
Patrick Parker	Green Valley Specific Plan
David Arnold	River Park Mitigation Bank

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To establish a vision, the Committee, chaired by Dusty Williams and Jason Uhley of the District, and facilitated by Scott Hildebrandt of Albert A. Webb Associates, under contract to the District, engaged in a collaborative process. Over the course of five meetings from April 2016 through October 2016, the Committee was asked to:

- Recommend and rank public health and safety, transportation, environmental, and economic goals; and
- Evaluate conceptual management plan alternatives against the ranked goals; and
- Endorse a preferred flood hazard mitigation concept that would serve as the foundation for an initial Project Description for subsequent CEQA analysis and development of a Master Drainage Plan by the District.

The Committee considered the evolving nature of the San Jacinto Valley communities including Lakeview, Nuevo, Perris, and Romoland and the benefits of better managing floods that have historically impacted agricultural lands, isolated communities from critical services, and damaged critical environmental resources. The Committee also looked at the impact of flooding on major transportation corridors such as the I-215 Freeway and the Ramona Expressway, local and regional development, and water supply projects. Additionally, the Committee considered the critical role the floodplain plays in implementing the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, including nourishment of alkali soils that support endangered salt bush species and the River's function as a critical species movement corridor. Many other public health and safety, environmental, economic, and transportation issues were also discussed.

After considering various alternatives, the Committee chose to endorse a plan alternative that focused on addressing the most critical transportation, public safety, and environmental needs while also accommodating some development of the floodplain fringe. The resultant conceptual Preferred Alternative includes the following key components:

- Armoring the Ramona Expressway as necessary to ensure that the roadway would not wash out during a 100-year storm event. The success of the Interstate 215 levee system is dependent on the Ramona Expressway acting as an upstream control structure that attenuates storm flows during large events;
- Levees along the east side of Interstate 215 at the San Jacinto River to provide 100-year flood protection for this critical transportation corridor;
- A series of features intended to a) prevent habitat type conversion of the alkali playads due to changes in hydrology associated with urbanization, and b) alleviate existing lateral drainage problems in Perris and Romoland, including:
  - Construction of wide berms to direct non-storm related urban runoff from above Interstate 215 into existing culverts beneath the freeway and into the proposed low flow channel;
  - A deepened low flow channel from Perris Valley Channel to Ethanac Road; and
  - An underground storm drain (in lieu of a deepened low flow channel) to convey low flows from Ethanac Road to Railroad Canyon.

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Further, the Committee agreed that the Preferred Alternative should accommodate approved and/or pending development activities to the extent feasible by including the following developer-led projects as foreseeable impacts of a program-level CEQA analysis:

- Modifying the low flow channel from Perris Valley Storm Drain to Ethanac Road to include a 1000' wide terrace that would further support riverine habitat within the terrace, thereby enhancing the proposed species movement corridor. The terrace, combined with fill along the floodplain ridge, would also slightly reduce the floodplain, thus allowing for some incremental development of the floodplain fringe; and
- The ability to excavate/fill portions of the shallow pond upstream of the levees on Interstate 215.

The Preferred Alternative would ultimately support the conservation of over 4,300 acres of existing floodplain while allowing incremental development of approximately 2,700 acres.

The preferred alternative endorsed by the Committee is based on preliminary environmental and engineering analyses discussed in the report.

**NEXT STEPS:**

The District will now further develop the Committee's Preferred Alternative into an initial project description for CEQA analysis and development of a Master Drainage Plan. The District will prepare the appropriate environmental documents necessary to adopt the proposed Master Drainage Plan. The preliminary environmental and engineering analyses will be further developed and refined, which could result in some modification of the project. However, the goal will be to maintain the Committee's vision to the extent feasible.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

The development and subsequent implementation of a comprehensive flood hazard mitigation plan for the lower San Jacinto River Valley will protect critical transportation facilities, advance implementation of the Western Riverside Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and accommodate certain land development activity within the floodplain fringe.

**SUPPLEMENTAL:**

**Additional Fiscal Information**

Although no fiscal expenditures are associated with this particular Form 11, funding for the subsequent CEQA analysis and Master Drainage Plan development contemplated herein will be paid from Zone 4 ad valorem tax revenue and are included in the District's proposed FY2017-18 budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft San Jacinto River, Stage 3 Report

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2. Endangered Habitats League Newsletter
3. Endangered Habitats League Letter of Support

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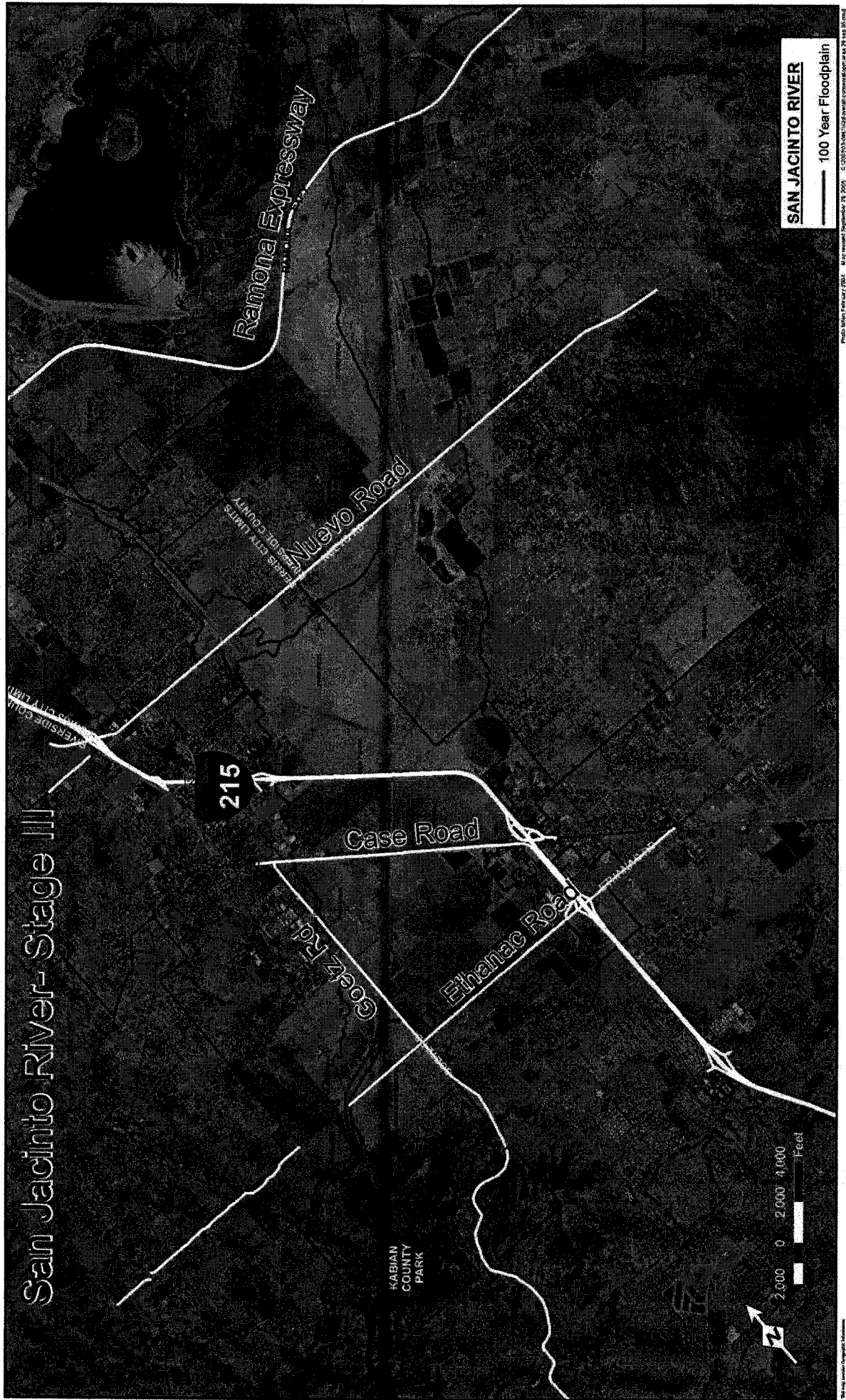
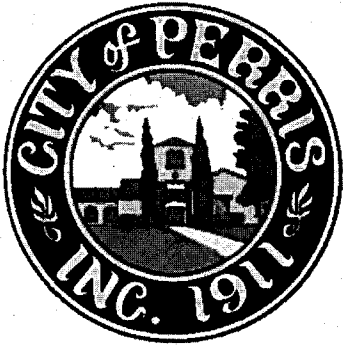
  
Elizabeth Olson 4/3/2017   
Gregory W. Priamos, Director County Counsel 3/30/2017

Figure 1-1: Project Study Area





# CITY OF PERRIS

101 NORTH "D" STREET  
PERRIS, CALIFORNIA 92570  
TEL: (951) 943-6100

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 29, 2017


The Honorable Marion Ashley, Chair  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
4080 Lemon Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

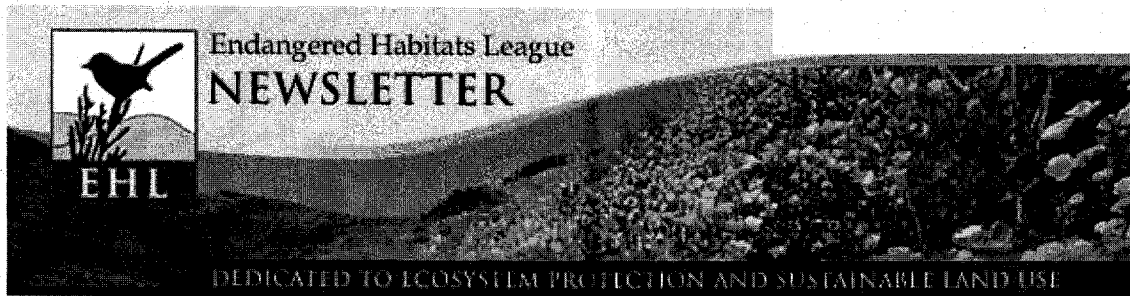
Attn: Mr. Jason Uhley, Chief Engineer / General Manager

Re: San Jacinto River Stage 3

Thank you for the opportunity to participate with the planning of the San Jacinto River Stage 3 Project. The City is in support of the Conceptual Planning report and its preferred alternative and appreciate Chairman Ashley's leadership and the hard work by the project team and look forward to continuing our association with staff, the member agencies, and individual property owners.

Sincerely,

  
for Michael M. Vargas  
Mayor



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- [EHL in the News](#)
- [Poetry by Jess Morton](#)

To learn more about the Endangered Habitats League and to access prior issues of the *EHL Newsletter*, please visit our website:

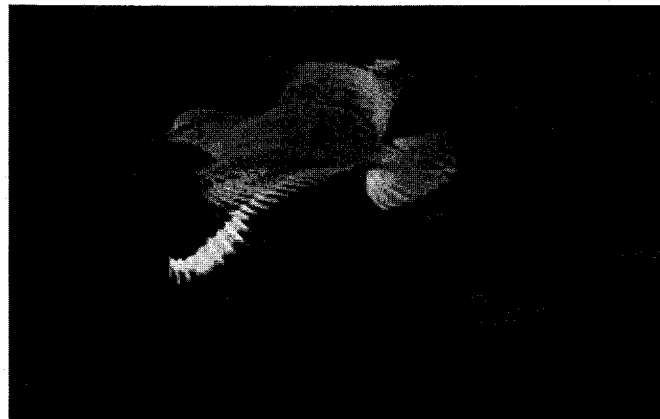
[www.ehleague.org](http://www.ehleague.org)

If you are not already a member of the Endangered Habitats League, please join us in the ongoing effort to protect the irreplaceable plants, animals, and places of Southern California.

[Free Membership Sign Up](#)

### *San Jacinto River alternatives designed*

EHL participated in an advisory committee that charted a balanced path to flood control and ecosystem protection in Riverside County.



The San Jacinto River drains from the San Jacinto Mountains into Lake Elsinore. On the way, it periodically fills Mystic Lake wetlands and supports shorebirds. Near the City of Perris, the river has a broad floodplain with rare alkaline soils, which support a community of rare plants dependent upon periodic floods. Agriculture and housing development compete for space, with major freeways crossing the river. Various water supply facilities are also present.

The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) sets standards for conservation of the floodplain but a detailed plan to resolve all the conflicting uses has been under development off and on for many years. In the meantime, though, the MSHCP has acquired land and has worked with a landowner to set up an important mitigation bank.

The Riverside County Flood Control District convened stakeholders – EHL included – in 2016 to formulate alternatives to evaluate further in an environmental impact report. The committee set the reasonable goal of protecting the key thoroughfare – I-215 – from flooding, and made the MSHCP a top priority. Input from state and federal wildlife agencies was obtained. Over a period of months, the capable consultant team sorted through



layers of complexity and identified a range of options and a tentatively preferred alternative.

EHL is comfortable with the alternatives and notes that what may emerge as the preferred option exceeds MSHCP requirements, provides space for infrastructure, and asks housing development at the fringe to pay its fair share for flood control. An innovative buried pipeline would convey urban run-off and allow the establishment of a natural riparian system further downstream.

EHL offers a special commendation to Supervisor Marion Ashley, a longtime leader of the MSHCP, whose guidance kept stakeholders on track.

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8424-A Santa Monica Blvd #592 · Los Angeles CA 90069-4267

*Perris Property, LLC*

8294 Mira Mesa Blvd. | San Diego, CA 92126  
(858) 271-4682 | Fax (858) 271-5161

March 29, 2017

Supervisor Ashley,  
Chair Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon St.  
Riverside CA 92501

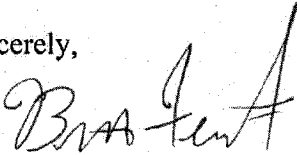
RE: San Jacinto River Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report (Hearing date, April 11, 2017) -  
SUPPORT

Dear Supervisor Ashley and Members of the Board:

Perris Properties has been involved with the many different groups spearheading this project over the last 30 years. Lately we are very excited to see the tremendous work that has been done to come up with a conceptual plan that best meets the goals for all parties involved. We fully endorse the San Jacinto River Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report and its "preferred alternative" as the basis for full environmental review.

As a member of the Lower San Jacinto River Advisory Committee, we were impressed by the rest of the team and the commitment to developing a well thought out plan. It is not easy to balance all the desires of the different stakeholders, but after all the analysis this plan the group has come up with is a plan that will greatly improve the overall area.  
Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Brett Feuerstein  
New Perris



March 29, 2017

The Hon. Marion Ashley, Chair  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
4080 Lemon Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Chairman Ashley and Members of the Board:

Raintree Investment Corporation ("Raintree") has reviewed the San Jacinto River Stage 3 Conceptual Planning Report ("Stage 3 River Report") prepared for the April 11, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Supervisors. We support the findings of the Stage 3 River Report and the preferred alternative.

As background, Raintree is working with the City of Perris on the development of the Green Valley Specific Plan. Raintree was honored to be part of the Advisory Committee and we appreciate your leadership in the formation, goal setting and teamwork that created the preferred alternative. The Advisory Committee was a diverse group of stakeholders that worked together for over a year to balance the viewpoints of people with different goals. The collaborative spirit of the group was special.

Thank you for your consideration of this important item on your meeting agenda. Respectfully, Raintree asks the Supervisors to support the Stage 3 River Report and the preferred alternative. It is our hope that you will share the enthusiasm of the Advisory Committee and begin the process to create and review the technical studies needed for environmental analysis and approval.

Sincerely,

Patrick Parker  
President

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of Board. Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

Date: 4/11/17 Agenda #: 11.4

SPEAKER'S NAME: SCOTT HILDEBRANDT  
(Print Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Only required if follow-up mail response is requested)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM:

- The Applicant  A Neighbor  
 Applicant's Representative  Other Interested Party

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

- I wish to speak  I DO NOT wish to speak  
 I wish to speak with a Media Presentation

I YIELD my 3 minutes to the following speaker:  
(Maximum 2 Yields per Speaker)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Position on Agenda Item:

- In Favor  Neutral  Opposed

## BOARD RULES

### **Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:**

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

### **Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:**

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office, 24 hours in advance of the Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please insure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

### **Individual Speaker Limits:**

**Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.** Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. **Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.**

### **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

### **Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:**

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in the front row to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

**\*PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS WHILE THE PUBLIC HEARING IS IN SESSION OR SWITCH THEM TO VIBRATE AND ANSWER CALLS AFTER LEAVING THE ROOM.**