

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



13.1

(MT 14592)

(1)

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

(2)

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter be reconsidered and that the recommendation from County Counsel regarding the Ratification and Approval of Letter Agreement No. 21-07-34-L2060 with United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation and Approval of First Amendment to Lease and Agreement between the Coachella Valley Water District and the Riverside County Regional Parks and Open-Space District by and through the County of Riverside for Administration of the Recreation at Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal, Indio, California; District 4, is continued to Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full true, and correct copy of an order made and entered on March 9, 2021 of Supervisors Minutes.



(seal)

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Board of Supervisors
Dated: March 9, 2021
Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, in
and for the County of Riverside, State of California.

By: *Y. P. ...* Deputy

AGENDA NO.
13.1

xc: Parks, COB

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



ITEM: 13.1
(ID # 14592)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, March 09, 2021

FROM : Regional Parks and Open Space District:

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT: Adopt Resolution 2021-004 Approving the Letter Agreement with The United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Administration of the Recreation Area and Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal; Approve First Amendment to Lease and Agreement between the Coachella Valley Water District and the County of Riverside for Administration of the Recreation at Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal, Indio, California; District 4; CEQA Exempt; [\$360,000] Clerk to File Notice of Exemption – Companion Item #14598

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Directors:

1. Find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities;
2. Approve First Amendment to Lease and Agreement between the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the Riverside County Regional Parks and Open-Space District, by and through the County of Riverside (County) for Administration of Recreation at Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal;
3. Approve Letter Agreement No. 21-07-34-L2060 extending the term of the Agreement and License for County Highway Facilities (Contract No. 14-06-300-2206) between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the County of Riverside (County) and the Lease and Agreement for Administration of Recreation at Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal (Contract No. 14-06-300-2215);
4. Adopt Resolution 2021-004 Approving the Letter Agreement with The United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Administration of the Recreation Area and Lake Cahuilla Adjacent to the Coachella Canal;
5. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute the amendment and Letter Agreement on behalf of the Riverside County Park and Open-Space District;
6. Authorize the General Manager to execute future amendments and make ministerial changes to the Agreements, as approved by County Counsel, that do not change the intent or purpose of the Agreements and encumber no additional funds;
7. Direct the Clerk of the Board to return three (3) copies of the First Amendments to the Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District; and
8. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file the Notice of Exemption within five (5) days of approval by the Board.

ACTION: Consent

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



Kyla R. Brown, General Manager

3/1/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 90,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 360,000	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: REGIONAL PARKS OPERATING FUND 25400			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	20/21

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

In 1971, the County of Riverside (County) entered into three Leases and Agreements for property now known as Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park. The first agreement was an Agreement and License for County Highway Facilities between the County of Riverside and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) (Contract No. 14-06-300-2206). The second lease was the Lease and Agreement between the United States and the County of Riverside for the Use of Land and Development and Administration of Recreation at the Terminal Reservoir Adjacent to the Coachella Canal (Contract No. 14-06-300-2215) which is administered by the CVWD. The final agreement is between The County and the Coachella Valley County Water District, now the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and was for the Use of Land and Development and Administration of Recreation at the Terminal Reservoir Adjacent to the Coachella Canal. The purpose of entering into the Leases and Agreements was for the County to develop a public outdoor recreation area in the Coachella Valley. All three agencies desired that recreation facilities be developed and operated by the County. While irrigation use of the terminal reservoir known as Lake Cahuilla was paramount, recreation and wildlife uses were desired. The County Highway Facilities agreement was set to expire on October 19, 2022. Both recreation area leases had 50-year terms with the USBR agreement set to expire January 11, 2021, and the CVWD agreement set to expire March 22, 2021. The County, through the Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks), invested in improvements to the site between 1971 to present, resulting in a regional park that is now known as Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park and represents the County's first park named in honor of veterans.

Ongoing negotiations between RivCoParks, CVWD and USBR over the past several years regarding an extension of the leases have highlighted concerns related to dreissenid mussels, or more specifically quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*), being introduced to the lake and downstream infrastructure through recreational activities. Quagga mussels are an invasive species that have the potential to cause significant economic impacts to infrastructure, should mussels become established in the lake or pipes that transport irrigation water to farms in the valley.

The letter agreement with USBR that is recommended for approval would extend the County Highway Facilities agreement and the Use of Land and Development and Administration of

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
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Recreation lease to March 22, 2022. On January 26, 2021, the CVWD Board of Directors voted to extend the current lease agreement(s) for one year. The First Amendment to the CVWD extends the original terms to March 22, 2022 to allow additional studies related to quagga mussels to be conducted, mitigation efforts to be explored, and negotiations to continue. No other terms are amended. Approval of the 1st amendment and the letter agreement would result in the lease termination dates of all three agreements being March 22, 2022.

The one-year extension specifically affords time for RivCoParks, along with Desert Recreation District and the City of La Quinta, to conduct an independent study on current water quality, as well as determine the level of risk recreation activities pose to the lake. These entities desire to partner to expand recreational programs and access to Lake Cahuilla, while enhancing protections against accidental introduction of quagga mussels into the lake.

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park is a scenic 710-acre recreational park at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains that includes campgrounds, access to trails, a 135-acre fishing lake, a zero-depth entry pool, picnic areas, restrooms, and play areas. The park is visited by over 50,000 people per year to enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, swimming in the pool, or participating in a variety of permitted events. In addition, the lake was selected as the swim location for the Ironman 70.3 Indian Wells-La Quinta triathlon, attracting over 3,000 athletes and their supporters to the region and resulting in an estimated \$10M in financial benefit to the Coachella Valley.

Entering into these amendments will allow for continued operation of the park and for citizens, as well as help ensure the park remains open and accessible to the public for recreational use. Ideally, new long-term leases will be entered into before the one-year amendments expire, allowing for future investment in infrastructure and helping to preserve this park for public use for years to come.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project is deemed categorically exempt under 15301: Existing Facilities.

Financial Impact


The cost of operating Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park for the lease period is \$360,000, funded by the Regional Parks Operating fund, and represents the March 2021 through March 2022 projected net costs with COVID impacts.

Attachments

Resolution No 2021-004
First Amendment to Lease and Agreement with CVWD

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
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Letter Agreement No 21-07-34-L2060 extending Lease and Agreement with USBR
Notice of Exemption


Douglas Cordonez Jr.  3/2/2021 
Gregory V. Priamos, Director County Counsel 3/2/2021