

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



21.3

The above referenced Item is moved under the Policy Calendar as Item 3.41 of July 9, 2024.

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



ITEM: 21.3
(ID # 25420)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 09, 2024

FROM : TLMA-PLANNING

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY/PLANNING: Public Hearing on the Transfer of Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Conservation Objectives/Take – REQUEST: Find the transfer of 75 acres of Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Conservation Objectives (take) for Peninsular Bighorn Sheep within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area to the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CVCC, the City Of La Quinta, and the County Of Riverside to facilitate the transfer of the Conservation Objectives. District 4. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. **FIND** that transferring 75 acres of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Conservation Objectives (take) will have no significant effect to the County or potential future development because the area has very little development potential and the County would have sufficient take remaining after the transfer to support any future development; and
2. **AUTHORIZE** the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the CVCC and the City of La Quinta.

ACTION:Policy

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 24/25	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is asking the County of Riverside to transfer Conservation Objectives (take), for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (PBHS) to mitigate the loss of habitat. Under the CVMSHCP, Permittees, including participating cities and Riverside County, have an allocation of habitat “take” or authorized disturbance for covered species. This authorized disturbance of habitat can be used for any development occurring in Conservation Areas, at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, through a process of transfer of Conservation Objectives. With this transfer of Conservation Objectives, the total amount of habitat for the PBHS would remain the same.

A PBHS exclusion fence was built as a management action covered by the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan to comply with a request from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in order to further protect PBHS. The fence was required to address the urban-related impacts of PBHS using artificial sources of food and water in urbanized lands, including golf courses, parks, artificial water sources, and resort residential lands, in the La Quinta area of the Coachella Valley. The fence project completed by the CVCC helped reduce the premature harm and death of the bighorn sheep by eliminating their ability to enter the golf courses, residential homes (and roads), and the Coachella Canal. There is no essential Peninsular Bighorn Sheep habitat outside the CVMSHCP conservation areas that can be acquired to mitigate habitat loss. The CVCC requires a total of 194 acres of take to mitigate the losses of bighorn sheep habitat that was caused by the CVCC fence project. The City of La Quinta will provide 119 acres from their total allotment of 159 acres, while the County of Riverside is being asked to transfer 75 acres of Conservation Objectives from the County’s total allotment of 683 acres. As such, the County will continue to have over 600 acres of PBHS habitat “take” available for future projects (to date, the County has only used roughly nine acres of this available additional habitat since the plan’s inception in 2008).

The County of Riverside approved the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) on October 2, 2007. To ensure fair, consistent, and effective implementation of the Plan, Board Policy A-61 was adopted on February 26, 2008. Board Policy A-61 provides the Board of Supervisors the authority to grant take for private and public development projects.

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Impact on Residents and Businesses

The proposed transfer of conservation objectives/take should have no impact on residents and businesses within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area or within other portions of Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan under the jurisdiction of the County of Riverside. The land is incredibly steep, lacks infrastructure, and has already been called out for conservation.

Additional Fiscal Information

The proposed transfer does not have associated fees; there is no General Fund obligation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. CVCC staff report and MOU



Jason Farin, Principal Management Analyst 7/4/2024



Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deputy County Counsel 7/2/2024