

El Sobrante, Expansions 1, 2 and 3, Riverside County

Last updated: 8/13/2008

Project Name: El Sobrante, Expansions 1, 2 and 3, Riverside County **Approving**

Board: Wildlife Conservation Board **Link to Board Meeting and Agenda:**

www.wcb.ca.gov

Agenda Date: August 28, 2008

Agenda Item: 15

Allocation: \$1,987,000.00

County: Riverside

Size: Fee title to three properties totaling 104 acres

Bond Section providing funding: Public Resources Code Section 75055(c):
Natural Community Conservation Plans

The primary purpose of this acquisition is to protect threatened and endangered species and wildlife corridors, and to implement federal, state, and local Natural Community Conservation Planning efforts in western Riverside County. Western Riverside County is one of the most ecologically important areas in the United States and arguably contains the most listed species of any region in California. The area is currently occupied by many types of animals and plants from swallows to golden eagles, jackrabbits to bobcats and the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, federally-endangered Stephen's kangaroo rat, State and federally-endangered least Bell's vireo, State and federally-endangered Munz's onion and other sensitive species. All are habitat specialists, relying on grasslands, sage scrub and riparian plant communities, all of which are rapidly disappearing in Southern California. Acquisition of properties in Western Riverside County is important in a broader ecological context, providing north-south corridors for wildlife, and contributing to the genetic viability of a number of native species.

These properties will be owned and managed by the Authority as part of its mission of creating a habitat reserve system of 153,000 acres (of which approximately 37,000 acres have been conserved to date) to protect the 146 species covered by the

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The properties have a total appraised fair market value of \$3,949,000.00, as approved by the State Department of General Services. The State's proposed grant will provide \$1,972,000.00 toward the purchase. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants, in the amount of \$1,977,000.00 will be accepted by the Board and subgranted to the Authority to be applied toward the purchase of the properties.

The purposes of this project are to protect threatened and endangered species and wildlife corridors, and to implement federal, state, and local Natural Community Conservation Planning efforts in western Riverside County. These purposes are consistent with the stated purposes of the funds provided to the Wildlife Conservation Board under Chapter 6, Section 75055(c) to implement or assist in the establishment of Natural Community Conservation Plans and with the general priority characteristics for natural resource protection projects described under Chapter 10, Section 75071(a) Landscape/Habitat Linkages protection and (e) non-state matching contribution.