

**Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve
Reserve Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 1:00 pm
Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Center
Murrieta, California 92562**

Meeting Notes

RMC Members Present

Kyla Brown (Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District/Parks)
Jim Theide (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Richard Kim (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Alex Marks (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)
Brian Shomo (Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency/RCHCA)

Other Attendees

Gail Barton (public), Daniel Cardoza (MWD), Yuwei Cui (UC Riverside), Leonard Nunney (UC Riverside), Robert Williams (Reserve Manager, Parks)

1. **Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order at 1:16 pm.
2. **Public comments** – No comments.
3. **Approval of meeting notes** – December 5, 2018 meeting notes were presented and discussed.

**MOTION to approve the meeting notes as presented for the December meeting.
Motion – Brian Shomo; Second – Alex Marks; Motion approved**

4. **RMC will consider a research proposal for Ms. Yuwei Cui to conduct research on the Reserve. CDFW issued collecting permit** – Robert introduced the item and stated that Leonard Nunney from UC-Riverside was in attendance to present the research proposal. Mr. Nunney stated that the project would involve a genome-wide comparison to learn more about the genetic differences between the *D. simulans* (Dulzura) and *D. agilis* (*Agile*) kangaroo rat species. He noted that the literature on kangaroo rat genetics is extremely limited and suggested that given the regulatory status of kangaroo rats, it is important to study their genomes and to determine whether there are genomic signatures of gene introgression. Mr. Nunney stated that the gene data would be taken from ear tissue samples collected from approximately 10 individuals at two locations north of Lake Skinner, in the Reserve. Methods to handle the incidental trapping of Stephen's Kangaroo Rat would be coordinated with the Reserve Manager prior to the research project commencing.

**MOTION to approve the proposal by UC-Riverside to conduct kangaroo rat
research on the Reserve.
Motion – Richard Kim; Second – Alex Marks; Motion approved**

5. **Reserve manager report – The Reserve manager will update the RMC on Reserve management activities addressing (a) natural resources management, (b) patrol, (c) maintenance, and (d) interpretive program** - Robert presented the December 2018-February 2019 quarterly report. Highlights from the written reports were as follows.
 - Staff completed preparation of the 3 acres Munz onion site on the north shore of Lake Skinner. A population density survey will be completed once the plant flowers.
 - Field staff and Cal-Fire crews cut and treated 5 acres of tamarisk in Tocalota Creek. During nesting season, staff will begin installing native trees and shrubs that are being grown in the Reserve nursery.
 - Cal-Fire crews were utilized to remove ladder fuels in Lopez Canyon and Rawson rift in order to protect the oak groves in the event of a wildfire.
 - 709 visitors came to the Alamos Schoolhouse Nature Center during the quarter and 38 visitors attended one of five Nature Walks/Bird Walks this quarter.
6. **Reserve management RFP scope of work – The RMC will be provided an updated on status** – Alex presented the item and indicated that although the RFP had been updated since the December meeting it had not be approved by Metropolitan management and finalized. The updates included providing more details about the level of experience required of applicants as well as preferred skills and professional licenses. As requested by Brian, Metropolitan will consider including a requirement in the RFP that applicants provide information regarding applicator licenses and resource agency permits for various MSHCP species.
7. **Roundtable – RMC members will provide updates on Reserve-related activities of their agencies** – (a) Alex reported that ropes were installed along the edge of the wildflower trail to keep visitors on the trail and that maintenance of the Skinner Trail was anticipated in May. He added that MWD had hired a consultant for the overall Trails Planning Project and provided a brief history of the trails plan for new the RMC members. (b) Richard noted that his agency will make an effort to come out to visit the Reserve frequently. (c) Brian noted that he wanted to discuss the Reserve building project at the June meeting and that there will be a volunteer cleanup at Lake Mathews on April 19th. (d) Kyla mentioned that Parks is creating a website for posting past meeting minutes and materials for public access in response to changes to the Brown Act; a link to the site will be provided to RMC members for input.
8. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.