



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 3, 2016**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY **WARD: 2**

SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE AND THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVATION AGENCY FOR BIOLOGICAL MONITORING OF STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT AT SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS PARK

ISSUE:

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Riverside and the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) for biological monitoring of the endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Riverside and the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency.

BACKGROUND:

The RCHCA is a joint powers agreement agency comprised of the County of Riverside and several local cities, including Riverside. The RCHCA was formed in 1990 for the purpose of planning, acquiring, and managing habitat for the SKR and other endangered, threatened, and candidate species. As a mitigation measure of the *Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County*, the RCHCA established a regional system of core reserves to conserve SKR and the ecosystem upon which it depends. Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park is a core reserve within the system. The RCHCA has qualified staff who are permitted, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to perform the tasks associated with biological monitoring of SKR. Since the RCHCA has an interest in the overall success of the reserve system, they have offered to provide biological monitoring services at Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park at no cost to the City. Biological monitoring is a service for which the City would normally need to hire a consultant, so it is beneficial to have RCHCA offer their expertise and services to the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with approving the MOU.

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to availability of funds: Scott Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Memorandum of Understanding