SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT #1

Jeffries Journal

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Kevin's Corner

"Temporary" Good News. For those of you who endure the punishing daily commute of the Interstate 15 corridor through the Temescal Valley and Corona, a small but very important "temporary" southbound lane is going to be added between Cajalco's southbound on-ramp and the southbound off-ramp at Weirick. As you all know, the severe bottleneck that occurs as the toll lanes merge into the free lanes nearly shuts down the southbound traffic for hours per day, seven days per week. The original plan was for the toll lanes to continue all the way to Hwy 74 in Lake Elsinore and eventually to the San Diego County line. The Great Recession significantly delayed (wiped out?) the revenues for that extension project to proceed as originally planned. As RCTC looks for new revenues to build the ultimate "someday" project, they have started the years of studies, engineering and environmental analysis necessary to seek State approval (the State doesn't really fund or build any freeway "capacity" anymore, and primarily seem to exist to make it harder for us to even build our own lanes!). In the meantime, recognizing the problems the new lanes have caused, this interim lane addition was identified as a quick solution, and is expected to be rapidly constructed and completed next year! It's a start! https://www.rctc.org/new-southbound-lane-on-i-15/

Good News - Bad News. The economy is strong, and as people are returning to work and looking toward the future, homeowners and business owners have large numbers of proposed projects and improvements they are seeking to construct and obtain county permits for. The downside is, they are being submitted in such high numbers that the County can barely keep up with the people lining up at the Land Use counter. In fact, with increasingly challenging staffing shortages (vacancies, transfers/promotions, retirements, COVID, burnouts, lack of qualified applicants), the backlog of permit seekers has grown substantially, to well over 400 at the writing of this column. Unfortunately, significant hiring challenges are facing nearly every sector of public and private employment, as you can see with the "Now Hiring" signs on nearly every restaurant and retail store. Even more alarming, COVID restrictions, combined with increased retirements has reportedly created hundreds of vacancies at Cal Fire (our fire protection partner and contractor) and the California Highway Patrol. If you'd like to help with Planning, or one of our many staffing shortages across multiple agencies, check out our County HR page at: https://www.rc-hr.com/Find-A-Job/Job-Searching/County-Job -Openings

Is Traditional Zoning Gone for Homes? If you live in a typical single family home development, and like your neighborhood, and moved there because you like the lawn and space between homes, I may have some bad news for you: the state of California has decided that one of the ways they're going to solve the (admittedly serious) housing crisis is by putting new houses on YOUR block or cul-de-sac. Because they know best, SB 9, recently signed by the Governor, would allow up to four residential units on nearly every residentially zoned lot, with only the most basic restrictions, and no opportunity for your local government to say no.

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The Board of Supervisors has asked our Planning Department to give us a report soon on the possible ramifications of this new law, but it may create crazy development incentives to only approve small lots with no yards, versus larger one acre lots that could later be subdivided into four, with no further review by the County.

Congratulations are in order. Few of you have likely ever heard of the March Joint Powers Authority. It's a local "Joint Powers" organization with officials from the cities of Perris, Moreno Valley, Riverside and the County of Riverside that assumed land use authority over much of the former March Air Force Base lands when the base was downsized/realigned (though it is still quite active as the March Air Reserve Base). The JPA has been focused on economic growth and local job creation. Over the next 3 years, the JPA will begin winding down its organization and turning most all its remaining responsibilities over to the appropriate cities and/or the county. With the recent retirement of its Executive Director, the JPA conducted a national search for a replacement and found an extremely qualified candidate right here in our own backyard. Please welcome aboard Dr. Grace (Williams) Martin, the new Executive Director of the March JPA. For more information on the JPA: <u>www.MarchJPA.com</u>

Respectfully,

Kevin Jeffries

P.S. As Always feel free to drop me a note on how to improve, change, comment, or politely complain about county services.

Interested in serving your local community? Perhaps you are more of a regional advocate? If you live in or have a business in District #1, be sure to look at the list of openings we have below for local commissions. If you feel you have the time to dedicate to making the district a better place feel free to apply online at www.supervisorjeffries.com, under Boards & Commissions



Fair Board (National Date Festival) - One (1) opening

In Home Support Services (IHSS) - Recipient of IHSS Services—One (1) opening

Behavioral Health Commission - Family Member - One (1) opening

Lakeland Village Community Advisory Council— One (1) Alternate

Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) - One (1) Alternate

First 5 Advisory Committee- One (1) opening

Riverside County Flood Control Commission—Zone I—One (I) opening * Riverside Area, see map: www.rcflood.org/About-the-District/District-Zones-2021

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding For Non-Profits

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has allocated \$1,000,000 in funding to the COVID- 19 Community Improvement (CID) Fund to support pandemic relief efforts undertaken by non-profit organizations. Grants will be provided to eligible non-profits providing direct relief services and/or serving populations disproportionally impacted by the pandemic. The Board of Supervisors in compliance with U.S. Department of Treasury guidelines has established the following funding objectives for this grant opportunity:

- 1. Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts carried out by non-profit agencies to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- 2. Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
- 3. Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic
- 4. Mitigate demonstrated financial hardship resulting from COVID-19 public health emergency including covering payroll, mortgages or rent, and other operating expenses

If your non-profit has been affected by the pandemic in one of these categories, you may be eligible for grant funding. Riverside County is hosting a virtual workshop on ARPA funding for non-profits from 2-4pm on October 13th. For more information on the workshop, e-mail <u>jkammerer@rivco.org</u>

A link to the application and more information on the program is available on our website at <u>www.supervisorjeffries.org.</u>



First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar, and unincorporated communities including Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Temescal Valley, Good Hope, Lakeland Village, El Cariso, Meadowbrook, La Cresta, Tenaja, DeLuz and Spring Hills.

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Woodcrest Community Clean Up

The Woodcrest Community Clean-Up was a big success this year! We were able to serve 228 customers during the event and even collected 314 tires. Residents took full advantage of the opportunity to get rid of bulky items and clean up their yards without having to drive all the way to the landfill.

Huge thanks to Sandals Church Woodcrest for letting Waste Management Inc. and Waste Resources use your parking lot to host the clean-up.







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Road Paving

We are pleased to report that after many years of requests and a lot of hard work by Riverside County Transportation Department, The Orange Avenue paving project in Mead Valley is now complete. The residents along Orange Ave. can now enjoy a freshly paved road along with a new 3 way stop sign intersection on the corner of Brown St. and Orange Ave. to help the safety of the community. Thank you to all residents for being patient on this process and for your understanding while work was being completed.



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Mead Valley Town hall

Our 2021 Mead Valley Town Hall was an enormous success! Supervisor Kevin Jeffries addressed the community alongside several of our Riverside County community services. The community interacted with county leaders and expressed their ideas to help improve their community. Afterward, residents enjoyed games, food, a live band, and Ballet Folklorico dancers, too! Congratulations to the lucky winners of the AirPods Pro, iPads, and MacBooks that were raffled off during the event. Special thanks to the volunteers in our community for helping put this together and to all the departments who participated, and of course to all the people who attended this event.













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Mead Valley Senior Event

On Thursday, September 23rd we had a full house at the Mead Valley Senior Center. Our seniors said goodbye to the summer with a Luau party where they had the opportunity to enjoy delicious snacks, refreshing drinks, good music, and lots of dancing.













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Community Meetings

Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council recently met on 9/9/21. Meetings occur the second Thursday of odd months at 6pm at the Woodcrest Library.
**November meeting will be held on 11/11/21 due to the Veterans Day holiday.



Lakeland Village Community Advisory Council recently met on 9/22/21. Meetings occur quarterly on the fourth Wednesday at 6pm at the Lakeland Village Community Center. The next meeting will be held on 12/1/21.



Please check www.rivcodistrict1.org for agendas and more information

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Riverside County joining new customer-centered statewide benefits platform

Platform set to launch on Sept. 27 will serve more than a quartermillion Riverside County households.

<u>BenefitsCal</u>, a new statewide website, is on track to go live Sept. 27, offering more than a quarter-million Riverside County households improved access to food, housing, health coverage, and workforce programs. The BenefitsCal website will replace the existing C4Yourself.com.

Officials will pull the plug on the existing C4Yourself website Thursday evening (Sept. 23). Customers and county workers will not have access to either system during the transition phase that will end Monday (Sept. 27). During this time, existing customers will not experience any interruptions to their benefits. Between Thursday night and Monday morning, new applicants are encouraged to apply for food assistance at <u>GetCalFresh.org</u> or low-cost health coverage at <u>coveredca.com</u>.

Starting Sept. 27, Riverside County residents can visit <u>benefitscal.com</u> to apply for CalFresh, Cal-WORKs, Medi-Cal, General Aid/General Relief, and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). Having an e-mail address is the only requirement. All existing C4Yourself customers will be able to use their username and password to login into <u>BenefitsCal</u> for the first time.

"This has been a 20-year effort in the making to unify all 58 California counties under one statewide system," said Allison Gonzalez, assistant director of Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). "It is exciting to know this is here. We look forward to providing our customers with the fastest and most efficient service possible."

Riverside County residents can also visit their local DPSS office or contact their caseworker for further assistance. Please follow official DPSS social media accounts (@RivCoDPSS) on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for the latest updates.



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Why Join our Stakeholders Committee?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HABITAT CONSERVATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY?

The RCA is seeking members to apply for our Stakeholders Committee. This group of volunteer members provides input to the RCA by reviewing implementation plans for the MSHCP. (See sidebar at right). RCA intends for the Committee to:

- Bring together people with varying perspectives who share common interest in the MSHCP's success and who can help the RCA make continuous improvement; and
- 2. Increase awareness of the MSHCP and its benefits to western Riverside County.

Members are appointed by the RCA Chair and ratified by the RCA Board of Directors. The Committee will meet as requested by the Chair or Board — at least twice per year. Appointments are made annually.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Stakeholders Committee includes up to 16 members, with membership from the following:

- Groups representing property owners affected by the MSHCP
- Groups representing environmental interests implicated by the MSHCP
- Groups representing the building industry within the area affected by the MSHCP

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

Carefully read this information and application instructions.

- Submit your application and resume online or by completing the form below. Applications must be received by Monday, October 25, 2021.
- 3 The RCA Chair will review applications and submit final candidates for Board ratification in late 2021. You will be notified at that time if you have been selected, and additional information will follow.

Thank you for your interest.

WHAT IS THE RCA?

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) was formed in 2004 to achieve one of America's most ambitious environmental efforts, the Western Riverside **County Multiple Species** Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Our mission is to preserve 500,000 acres of habitat to protect 146 species. This effort is designed to expedite infrastructure construction. particularly transportation projects, and provide greater certainty in the development process.

As one of the nation's largest habitat conservation plans, the MSHCP strengthens our region by protecting natural resources, improving transportation networks, and fostering sustainable development for our growing region.

The RCA also:

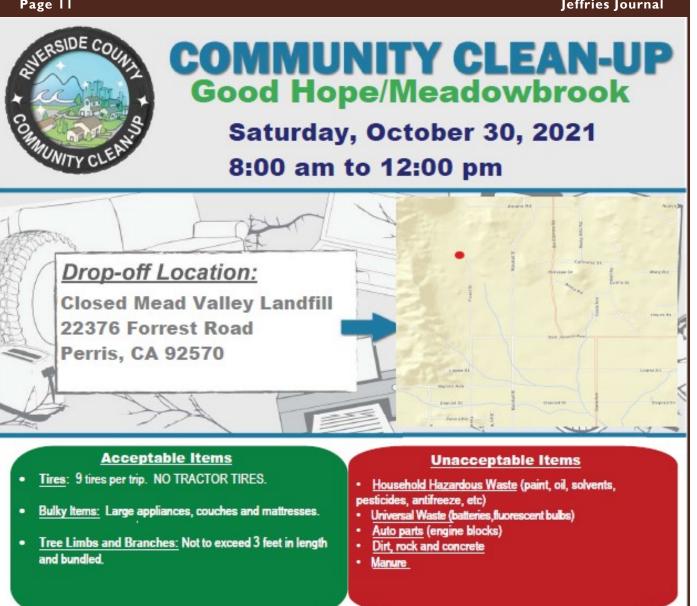
- Manages the lands we acquire to ensure animals and plants thrive
- Monitors habitat loss and the welfare of protected species
- Reviews applications for infrastructure and development projects

Learn more at wrc-rca.org.



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*Residents with trailers and/or enclosed storage trucks may be directed to the landfill. Please note that company vehicles will be turned away.

*Residents will need to unload materials themselves if trash is not bagged.

Due to COVID-19 protocols: Mask must be wore when you are within 6ft of others

NOTE: Does not include disposal of industrial, business, or household hazardous waste, building materials, or household trash. If you need additional information please contact Riverside County Department of Waste Resources at (951) 486-3200. Alternate formats available upon request.









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