

RUA RESOLUTION NO. XX-XX

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RIALTO UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF
THE CITY OF RIALTO, CALIFORNIA APPROVING A MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE DR. JUNE HAYES AND
DEBORAH ROBERTSON HABITAT NATURE CENTER PROJECT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND CEQA-PLUS REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Rialto ("City") and Rialto Utility Authority ("Authority") propose to develop the Dr. June Hayes and Deborah Robertson Habitat Nature Center Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA") and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Project; and

WHEREAS, because the Project has secured \$5 million in federal grant funding and involves federal agency oversight, the IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA-Plus standards, which require compliance with applicable federal environmental regulations in addition to CEQA, including but not limited to (1) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) tribal consultation standards; (2) Endangered Species Act; (3) National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); (4) Clean Water Act; and (5) Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, the City/Authority circulated the Draft IS/MND for public review for a 30-day period beginning February 15, 2024, and concluding March 18, 2024, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15073; and

WHEREAS, the City/Authority received one comment letter from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and engaged in further consultation with CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) between April and June 2024 to address feedback; and

1 WHEREAS, based on a review of the comment received and in consultation with its environmental
2 consultant EnPlanners, City/Authority staff determined that no substantial revisions to the IS/MND were
3 required, no new significant environmental impacts were identified, and the mitigation measures
4 proposed continue to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the City, as Lead Agency under CEQA and CEQA-Plus, finds that the IS/MND
7 reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City and has been completed in compliance with
8 CEQA and CEQA-Plus requirements; and

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10 WHEREAS, prior to the release of federal grant funds and commencement of federally funded
11 construction activities, the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be approved by the City Council and
12 Rialto Utility Authority Board and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for
13 Final Environmental Determination under CEQA-Plus.

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15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIALTO UTILITY AUTHROTY BOARD
16 OF THE CITY OF RIALTO AS FOLLOWS:

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18 Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct.

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20 Section 2. Based on the whole record before it, including the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative
21 Declaration, and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a
22 significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the
23 City/Authority's independent judgment and analysis

24
25 Section 3. The Rialto Utility Authority Board hereby Adopts the Mitigated Negative
26 Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2024020570) prepared for the Dr. June Hayes and Deborah
27 Robertson Habitat Nature Center Project, formally known as the Rialto Habitat Nature Center Project
28 pursuant to CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and CEQA-Plus requirements.

Section 4. The officers of the Authority are hereby authorized and directed, jointly and severally, to do any and all things and to execute and deliver any and all documents that they deem necessary or advisable in order to carry out, give effect to and comply with the terms and intent of this resolution, including but not limited to filing a Notice of Determination (NOD) with the San Bernardino County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse, and to submit the approved IS/MND to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Final Environmental Determination.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May 2025.

JOE BACA, President

ATTEST:

BARBARA A. McGEE, Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ERIC S. VAIL, General Counsel

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss
CITY OF RIALTO)

I, Barbara McGee, Secretary of the City of Rialto, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rialto held on the 13th day of May, 2025.

Upon motion of _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was duly passed and adopted.

Vote on the motion:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Official Seal of the City of Rialto this 13th day of May, 2025.

BARBARA A. McGEE, Secretary