

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 7, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Tanjia Thrun
Dick Barber
Deborah DeBow
Jan Fuchs
Diane Coombs
Bob Heygood
John Degenfelder
Dave Abrams
Ann Gardner
Margaret Schlesinger
Terry Badger
Liz Avalon
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Matt Witman
Nola Michel
Bob McClure
Dawn Rawls
Bill Sherrard
Tom Cook
Cor Shaffer
Martha Baker
Darrell Beck
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Leslie Ann Woollenweber

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
ADA Advisor
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Citizens Coordinate for Century Three
Del Dios Town Council
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Homeowner Association
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Diego County Trails Council
San Diego Wild Animal Park
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz
Susan Carter
Shawna Anderson
Jan Lines
Scott Crider
Chloe Schmitz
Scott Tillson
Georgie Birch
Yolanda Fleet

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
SDG&E, Affairs Manager of Sunrise Powerlink
Ramona Resident
Public Policy Advocacy
Lake Hodges Native Plant Society
Lake Hodges Native Plant Society

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 16550 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo.

Deputy Director Susan Carter took the roll call. A quorum was met. 25 in attendance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 3rd, 2006- Margaret Schlesinger made a motion to approve the minutes and Carol Carr seconded. All in favor

CHAIR'S REPORT- Chair Pryde said that at the JPA Board meeting they approved issuing a sole source contract for engineering design on the Del Dios Gorge project. He announced that the Lake Hodges bike pedestrian bridge lease agenda item was continued at the request of the City because there are more details to be worked out.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Executive Director Bobertz said that the SANDAG Transportation Committee is providing the River Park with an additional 2 million dollars for the Lake Hodges Bridge. This shortfall occurred due to the high lake level and the fact that the price of materials (steel and concrete) have gone up substantially since we started the designing the project. Mr. Bobertz said that project will go out to bid in June 2006 and the project will start in September 2006 after bird nesting season.

Mr. Bobertz said that the Trails Committee inspected the Starwood trail and the concerns of the committee about slumping have been worked out between the County of San Diego and Starwood and the JPA.

PUBLIC COMMENT- John Degenfelder said that there is a trail in the Laguna Mountains that belongs to State Parks that is available to the public.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Project Review Committee Report-** Shawna Anderson said that the PRC has been meeting regularly and there will be a site meeting on El Camino Real because of concerns about issues on some other Boudreau properties. Ms. Anderson said that concerns with the Camp Hope cabins' size is an issue under review and will be discussed when the EIR is issued. Most likely the PRC will suggest downsizing the cabins.
2. **Trails Committee Report-** Carol Carr said that the trails committee made a site visit on the Starwood (Crosby) trail after it was raining and the trail was slippery in places due to the clay and dirt surface. Ms. Carr said that she counted 30 switchbacks but reported that overall it was a very nicely built trail. Their concerns were the height of the fence and the location of the golf course to the trail. There are gaps in the fence along the switchbacks that might be a temptation for hikers to cut corners. There were some evidence of erosion but she reported that it was a beautiful trail. There will be a Grand Opening event in the near future.

Terry Badger suggested that JPA Ranger Jason Lopez be acknowledged for all his hard work on the trails and his input on the Starwood trail. Director Bobertz said that the JPA Board agrees, and he noted that the Board had approved Jason's use of River Park housing at no cost to compensate for salary discrepancies from other agency comparisons and for his hard work on the River Park trails.

3. SDGE Sunrise Powerlink- Shawna Anderson said that SDG&E has chosen several sites for the powerlink line to go through, including sensitive parts of the River Park. Ms. Anderson showed a map of the preferred route that goes through the Santa Ysabel preserve and our Habib property. Ms. Anderson said that she attended a meeting with SDG&E, County Parks and the Nature Conservancy where SDG&E found they had old maps not showing the JPA's ownership of this sensitive habitat.

Scott Crider from SDG&E showed a map of the preferred plan that will go from a substation at Highway 79 to Santa Ysabel which would include a substation to the north where the towers would be about 130 feet high with double lines. He showed the parcel information and a proposed right of way corridor that will serve as transmission line locations. Mr. Crider described the timeline and the information that will be reviewed by the PUC after which an EIR will be prepared. The PUC will have the final say as to what route will be chosen.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Craig Adams from the Conservancy presented some alternatives for the proposed route. He showed some pictures from the backcountry that would be disturbed by the power lines. He suggested that another alternative route that should be examined would be below the slopes to help mask the towers.

Chair Pryde suggested that it might be a good idea to refer the Powerlink motion to the PRC since it would be difficult for the full CAC to come up with a motion. Accordingly, Nola Michel made a motion to allow the PRC, in a special meeting, to submit to the JPA Board a suggestion for the powerlink alternate route. Terry Badger seconded. However, discussion continued and it appeared by consensus that the CAC would rather come up with a motion at today's meeting. Nola and Terry withdrew their motion.

Ann Gardner made a motion that the CAC is not convinced by the existing arguments made by SDG&E that the Sunrise Powerlink project is necessary. The CAC opposes SDG&E's preferred route through one of the most scenic portions of the San Dieguito River Park and urges SDG&E to seriously consider additional alternative routes just west of Highway 79 and outside (east) of the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve. SDG&E should also evaluate the feasibility of undergrounding the lines in the Santa Ysabel area." Ben Hillebrecht seconded.

Vote 19 Yes 3 Opposed 3 abstained

4. San Dieguito Watershed Plan. There was brief discussion about the draft watershed plan. Chair Pryde said that the chair of the watershed plan, Mark Whitehead, could be invited to speak on this subject, if the CAC desired. Jacqueline Winterer said that the Watershed Committee recommended that any new parking lot areas be required to put in landscape areas between the parking slots that would allow for the water to seep back into the ground allowing the water table to be replenished. No action was taken.
5. Santa Ysabel Ranch Management Plan- Deputy Director Carter said Casey Lyden from County Parks will give a presentation on the management plan. Ms. Lyden said the Resources management plan will cover 3800 acres to the east and 1500 acres to the west noting that the land was purchased in 1999. The County of San Diego intends to preserve the resources and provide

recreational use for the public. Ms. Lyden showed a map that indicated the proposed route for the Coast to Crest Trail through the Santa Ysabel Ranch East, including two loop trails off the main trail. She said they hope to open the trails this summer, on the weekends only at first. No trails can be opened on the Santa Ysabel Ranch West until the cultural surveys, which are presently unfunded, are undertaken.

INFORMATION

6. Progress Reports on Ongoing Projects (Oral Reports)

- a. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge- Executive Director Bobertz said that we had discussed this earlier in the meeting.
- b. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead- Deputy Director Carter said that Sikes Native Plant garden has been installed with the generous donation of \$2000.00 from the Lake Hodges Native Plant Society toward plants and supplies. Ms. Carter said that the creamery needs to be restored and we are hoping for financial donations and labor to expedite the project.
- c. Wetland Restoratiton Project/Coastal Trail- Executive Director Bobertz said that the news article in the agenda states that the project is underway but it is going slow due to the bird nesting season. The boardwalk may be started in June 2006.
- d. Del Dios Gorge Trail- Deputy Director Carter referred to the news article on Del Dios Gorge which we hope to start work on in September 2006.

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:20.