

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 8th, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Dick Barber
Deborah DeBow
Jan Fuchs
Marvin Gerst
Bob Heygood
Martha McCarter
Bill Michalsky
Jack Shelver
Margaret Schlesinger
Liz Avalon
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Matt Witman
Freda Reid
Bill Sherrard
John Ingalls
Devore Smith
Martha Baker
Darrell Beck
Arthur Schmitz
Jacqueline Winterer
Leslie Ann Woollenweber

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Council of Homeowners Association
Del Dios Town Council
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego County Farm Bureau
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Abi Palaseyed	City of San Diego
Chloe Schmitz	Ramona Resident
S. McCarter	Visitor

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:40 p.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 16550 Bernardo Heights Park, Rancho Bernardo, CA.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 7, 2006- Chair Pryde asked that the spelling of Councilmember Madaffer's name be corrected.

Minutes, as revised, approved by consensus.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Chair Pryde spoke about the assessment funds that were sent from the City of San Diego which were billed on the increased 06/07 schedule but paid on the 05/06 rate.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Executive Director Bobertz discussed the Sunrise Powerlink which was submitted to the Public Utilities Commission and the alternative that was of concern to the River Park because it would go through the natural open space west of the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve – West that the JPA recently purchased. Following input from the River Park, SDG&E changed their preferred route in the FPA to align more closely with Hwy 79 in Santa Ysabel. Mr. Bobertz said that with respect to the Via de la Valle widening project that Councilmember Scott Peters has set up a meeting on September 20th for the stakeholders to discuss the issues of concern.

Director Bobertz said that our budget is still a concern due to the City of San Diego's financial problems. Originally we were just concerned about whether the City would fund the increase in this year's JPA budget but now we have been advised that the City will no longer fund the JPA's member assessment from the Water Department's Enterprise Fund, and it must be transferred to the general fund.

Director Bobertz said that although the JPA's Trail Run was phased out a few years ago, other trail races have continued through other organizations. We have received some donations this year toward maintenance from race promoters for the use of the trail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martha Baker said that SDG&E is in escrow on a 100 acre parcel of property at the base of Volcan Mountain for a substation. This is a big concern to the Volcan Mountain Preserve and they plan to fight that issue at a hearing next Wednesday in Ramona.

Leslie Woollenweber said that the Conservancy is having a 20th Anniversary Event on September 30th at Bernardo Winery in Rancho Bernardo to recognize all the efforts of the Conservancy. Karen Berger will be awarded a Lifetime Achievement Recognition Award.

DISCUSSION / ACTION AGENDA

1. Project Review Committee Report

- a. **El Camino Real Bridge EIR-** Shawna Anderson said that the Project Review Committee met and discussed the proposed widening of El Camino Real from Via de la Valle to San Dieguito Road. A draft EIR has been issued and comments were made by the PRC. Ms. Anderson discussed the "eastern alternative" that

would move the alignment to the east with a sidewalk and bike lanes and would provide for a trail under crossing. This alignment will have less piers in the river and could be built without disrupting the traffic on El Camino Real during construction. The unique aspect of the Eastern Alignment is that the existing El Camino Real Bridge would be maintained as a non-motorized trail. The other alignments being considered would replace the existing El Camino Real Bridge. Ms. Anderson said that mitigation for the project would be 15 acres located on the former Boudreau property owned by the JPA which will restore it to wetland.

Marvin Gerst stated that keeping the two lane road would be a better alternative and that he is opposed to the project because of the exorbitant cost and the destruction to the river valley.

Jan Fuchs reported that the PRC had a meeting yesterday at which they supported the Eastern alignment. She said, however, that there was information relating to hydrology and wildlife corridors that was not known. Ms. Fuchs spoke about the points of concern that had to be addressed before a comment letter is sent on this project.

A question and answer session followed with suggestions for the comment letter .

Abi Palaseyed from the City of San Diego answered questions from members. Mr.Palaseyed said that this project started out to retrofit the bridge for the 100 year flood and seismic concerns but as they looked at the project there were adjustment to make in each direction from the bridge and funds became available to widen the road at the same time. He noted that the project is a few years away from construction but comments were needed on the Draft EIR.

Susan Carter said that the Trails Committee will be meeting next week and will discuss the PRC's proposal to remove bike lanes from the new bridge along with other trails-related issues.

A motion was made by Jacqueline Winterer to send the comment letter to the JPA Board for review this Friday, September 15th in the event that the EIR deadline is not extended. If the deadline is extended then the CAC needs to look at this issue again and address the concerns at the next meeting. There were two stipulations to the motion and the first is that the PRC is not officially endorsing the eastern alignment and second is that the City of San Diego should look at the concept of roundabouts at Via de la Valle to ease traffic concerns. Debra DeBow seconded .

Vote Yes 15 No 6 Abstaining 1

- b. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club- Jan Fuchs said that the Polo Field has reapplied for permit due to the citations for illegal grading in the river valley. This item will be brought back to the CAC's October meeting.
2. Memorial Policy- Chair Pryde said that this item should be addressed by an adhoc committee. He said that at next month's meeting he will appoint a committee for that purpose.
3. Trails Committee Report- None

INFORMATION

4. Progress Reports on Ongoing Projects (Oral Reports)
 - a. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge-Deputy Director Carter said that the bid for the bridge was higher than we had estimated and not within the funds allocated in our grants. We have met with our engineers and the contractors about value engineering and redesigning certain aspects of the project to try to go out to bid again when some of the non-essential expenses are eliminated
 - b. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead- Deputy Director Carter said that the Colonial Dames are funding the wallpaper and will be ordering the paper once we have a sample from the company that reproduces it. Ms Carter said that the Creamery is under construction and the concrete footings are set and the roofing materials are purchased.
 - c. Wetland Restoration Project/Costal Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that we are waiting for the project to begin and the boardwalk section is going to get started as soon as the coastal permit is issued.
 - d. Del Dios Gorge Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that we are submitting the 90% plans next week and we are asking the JPA Board to authorize staff to order the bridge to be fabricated so that it will be ready to place over the creek when we get to that section of the trail .

5. Communications

None

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12:20.