

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 6, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Pryde
Dick Barber
Deborah DeBow
Jan Fuchs
Marvin Gerst
Bob Heygood
John Degenfelder
Martha McCarter
Ann Gardner
Jack Shelver
Margaret Schlesinger
Joe Howland
Liz Avalon
Ben Hillebrecht
Carol Carr
Michael Ahlering
Freda Reid
Tom Cook
John Ingalls
Devore Smith
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
Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Julian Community Planning Group
League of Women Voters
Rancho Bernardo Community Planning Board
Rancho Santa Fe Association
San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Wild Animal Park
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association
Santa Fe Irrigation District
Sierra Club
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
Chloe Schmitz	Self
Karen Ruggles	RSF Polo Club
Jessica Berlin	CWA consultant

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Pryde convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- Jacqueline Winterer moved approval of September 8, 2006 minutes, Margaret Schlesinger seconded. All approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pryde reported that the JPA Board had approved the contract for an environmental monitor during the Wetland Restoration Project construction. They also took action to support Proposition 84, the Resources Bond Act.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bobertz reported that the San Dieguito River Park had received a \$550,000 grant to construct the urban runoff treatment ponds adjacent to the wetland restoration project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marvin Gerst said that the Meyer-Benson property, a 20 acre parcel on the west side of El Camino Real on the far south side of the valley is available for purchase from a willing seller for \$3.5 million.

Arthur Schmitz said that he had heard that library hours were being expanded, and he wondered if the Rancho Bernardo Library would be available for meetings again.

There was a question about the big pile of concrete near the lagoon. Dick Bobertz explained that crushed rock and clay has to be imported to use for portions of the berms on the restoration project. He said there is a phone number on our website that is an information line for the project.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Project Review Committee Report

a. El Camino Real Bridge EIR

Chair Pryde said that considerable time had been spent on this item last month. He said he thought it would be appropriate to recommend to the Board that the alternatives in the EIR should be restudied and the EIR reissued because the current draft is not adequate. Shawna Anderson gave a report on the changes in the PRC comments included in the agenda packet. Since last month the comments have been given additional refinement. Shawna said that she had also since added a comment that questioned the use of travel speed in the LOS definitions. Jan Fuchs said that the key important issue is that the City's focus on a dated road and bridge widening project that would only marginally improve traffic largely ignores the broader goals of preserving open space and the visual goals for the river valley. Marvin Gerst made a motion that recommends that the EIR restudy all alternatives including focusing on two lane alternatives as described in the PRC report and be reissued. Deborah Debow seconded. Vote 19 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstained.

b. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club

Shawna Anderson went over the handout that had a list of issues the PRC had prepared in response to the Polo Club's Site Development Application for a Horse Exercise Track. She said that according to the Initial Study and City Manager's Report when the Polo Club lease was approved, the Polo Club was supposed to leave open at all times a 15 to 20-foot-wide existing public path. Both the Specific Plan for the Fairbanks Country Club and the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan show a public trail in that area. She said that the Club is trying to legitimize their use of the trail in this Site Development Permit application. They use it for a horse exercise track, running strings of ponies along it, and maintain it for that use by disking it to a depth of 6-8 inches every day. This has caused impacts to the adjacent river in addition to making use of that area as a public path infeasible. She said that the project should restore the "horse exercise track" back to the public trail it was intended to be, and they should remove the illegal fill and exotic plants from the river and restore the wetland buffer and river to its original condition. She said that the PRC also recommended that the JPA should request a full evaluation of the applicant's compliance with their lease, which states that the Lessee shall not have activities on the premises which involve large assemblages of people or automobiles."

Karen Ruggles explained that she had been recently hired by the Polo Club to help them with their Site Development Permit application. She stated that the horse exercise track was definitely within the Club's lease, but Shawna Anderson disagreed, stating that when the legal description of the lease area was staked on the ground, it did not follow any coherent line, instead zigzagging back and forth erratically, but certainly for the westernmost several hundred feet the entire "horse exercise track" area was outside of the lease. Karen explained that the Site Development Permit application is the vehicle to establish that the Polo Club can disk and use the trail area for exercising the ponies. She said that eventually an environmental document will be prepared that looks at the geotechnology, hydrology, biology, etc.

John Ingalls warned that the Polo Club better be a good neighbor or when their lease is up in five years it won't be renewed. He said the public trail is sacrosanct, and any SDP should recognize that.

Dick Bobertz said that he hoped there would be a way to accommodate both uses on the 50-foot-wide area next to the river. If a fence were put in place between the two uses, then there could be a 15-foot-wide trail on the river side and still have 35 feet for the horse exercise track. Jan Fuchs said she had concerns about that idea because there would still be constant impacts to the river from the horse exercise track disking.

Jacqueline Winterer moved to endorse the PRC comments and send them to the JPA Board to send to the City of San Diego. Carol Carr seconded. Vote 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

2. CWA Emergency Storage Project Supplemental EIR- North Shore Trail Closure

Executive Director Bobertz explained that the County Water Authority had decided that they have to close the North Shore Trail for a period of two years during the construction of the Emergency Water Storage Project. They have issued a Supplemental EIR that states that the closure is unmitigable. Mr. Bobertz explained that JPA staff believes the closure could be mitigated by providing funds to the JPA to help pay to complete the Del Dios Gorge Trail segment. This would enable trail users to reach sections of the North Shore Trail that have become inaccessible as a result of the CWA closure. Deborah DeBow moved to recommend to the JPA Board that they send a letter to the CWA proposing the mitigation described by Mr. Bobertz and to require the CWA to remove invasives and cleanup and restore the existing trail when their project is complete. John Degenfelder seconded. Vote 17 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstained.

3. Memorial Policy

Chair Pryde said that he had asked the chairs of the Project Review Committee and the Trails Committee to appoint a representative to a committee, along with an appointee he will make, that will research and prepare recommendations for the CAC to consider.

4. Trails Committee Report (Oral Report)

Carol Carr reported that the Committee was meeting regularly and was assigning committee members to do various research and fieldwork tasks. Last month they spent a lot of time considering how the El Camino Real bridge widening project would affect trail use.

5. Progress Reports on Ongoing Projects – staff gave updates on current projects.

Communications Regarding Activities Proposed in the River Valley

Marvin Gerst reported that a cell tower is being built at Mary's Tack Shop.

Jan Fuchs reported that the next Project Review Committee meeting will be on October 16.

Chair Pryde adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.