

AGENDA
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Friday, November 21, 2003
County Administrative Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303
San Diego

Speaker slips will be available. Please fill out a slip and give it to the Chair prior to the meeting if you wish to speak to an item on the agenda. The Board may take action on any item listed on the Consent or Action agenda.

Introductions and Announcements.

Approval of the Minutes of October 17, 2003

Executive Directors Report – Quarterly Work Program Update

Public Comment

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Board and not appearing on today's agenda. Comments relating to items on today's agenda are to be taken at the time the item is heard. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action shall be taken by the Board on public comment items.

CONSENT

- 1) Amend FY 2003/04 Budget to Appropriate Bernardo Mountain Management Expenses
- 2) Approve Contract Amendment for T.Y. Lin Engineers, Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge
- 3) Approve Citizens Advisory Committee Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)
- 4) Adopt Resolution Approving “Whale Tail Grant”
- 5) Adopt Resolution Applying for Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Grant

ACTION

- 6) Approve Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations for JPA Board Officers and Committee Assignments
- 7) Trees in Lake Hodges
- 8) Watershed Planning Initiative Recommendations

INFORMATION

- 9) Coastal Wetland Restoration Project – David Kay, Southern California Edison
- 10) Presentation on Park Facilities GIS Tracking System
- 11) Status Reports (Oral)
 - a. Fire Damage Report
 - b. Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project
 - c. Property Acquisition
 - d. “Temporary Interpretive Kiosk” at Via de la Valle
 - e. Fairbanks Ranch Country Club

12) Jurisdictional Status Reports

An opportunity for the Board members to report on actions taken within their jurisdictions to further the park planning process, or problems which have arisen.

13) Communications

- a) Letter from JPA to San Diego City Manager re Sikes Lease
- b) Letter from JPA to San Diego City Manager re Fairbanks Ranch Country Club Golf Course “Berm”
- c) Letter from JPA to San Diego City Manager re Concept Plan Adoption

Adjournment

Chair

THE NEXT REGULAR JPA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2003 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

If you have any questions, please call Dick Bobertz at (858) 674-2270.

****Due to the high cost of printing and mailing the JPA and CAC agendas, the full packets are only mailed free of charge to the JPA and CAC members. For others, the cost of the full agenda, with backup material, is \$45 per year, and the cost of the agenda without backup material is \$10 per year. **The agenda and minutes are available at no cost on the San Dieguito River Park web site at www.sdrp.org.**

Agenda Item 1
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA Board

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Amend FY 2003/04 Budget to Appropriate Bernardo Mountain Management Expenses

RECOMMENDATION:

Amend FY 2003/04 Budget to Include Bernardo Mountain Management Expenses

SITUATION:

A. Background

At your Board's June 20, 2003 meeting, your Board approved entering into a management agreement with the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy wherein the JPA would contract with the Conservancy to manage the Conservancy's ownership on Bernardo Mountain, and would receive a management fee for that work. The management fee would be based on the Property Analysis Record's identified cost estimate of \$15,000 per year, with an initial year start-up cost of \$37,463. The revenue source for the Conservancy's management fee is Escondido Research and Technology Center Project, which purchased mitigation credits on a 130-acre portion of the Conservancy's property.

A check in the amount of \$37,463 for the initial year's start-up costs has been received and deposited. However, in order to expend those funds to carry out the required work, it is necessary to amend the JPA's adopted FY 2003/04 budget to appropriate the funds.

CAC RECOMMENDATION

This item was not considered by the CAC.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is categorically exempt from CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

Management costs will be reimbursed through the agreement.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Amend FY 2003/04 Budget.
2. Do not amend FY 2003/04 Budget.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

Attachment: Draft Budget Amendment

Agenda Item 2
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve contract amendment with T.Y. Lin International to authorize an augment in the Scope of Work of \$117,350.60.

Summary and Recommendation

The bridge design team on the Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project is led by bridge specialists, T.Y.Lin International. Subconsultants include the civil design firm, geotechnical engineers, landscape architects and various other specialists. The current team contract for the bridge and associated trail design is \$430,793. T.Y. Lin has requested an augment for the team in the amount of \$157,840 (see attached letter and proposed contract amendment, dated 8/27/03).

Staff has reviewed each of the proposed augments with T.Y.Lin and recommends that the augment request be approved in the amount of \$117,350.60. The major reasons for the augments are to accommodate the delays in the project schedule, to prepare hydrological and water quality studies that were not anticipated in the existing contract, and to coordinate with Caltrans on the interface with their Pomerado/West Bernardo Overcrossing widening project.

Staff recommends rejection of augment requests for permitting and environmental processing, and for use of the viaduct structure in lieu of the retaining wall, and modifications to the south shore and north shore trail alignments. Staff believes that these items were covered in the existing contract.

An additional cost is anticipated that was not addressed in the proposed amendment, and that is for a slope analysis by the geotechnical engineer. The slope analysis is needed to demonstrate the exact location of the potential slope failure along West Bernardo Drive, along with safety factor calculations, and what will happen to the slope over time both with water in the lake, and without water. The intended use of the slope analysis is to identify what agency or agencies are responsible for repairing the slope. If the cost proposal from the geotechnical engineer is received by today's meeting, it will be provided to your Board for action.

The JPA policy is that any contract amount or contract amendment over \$25,000 must be approved by the Board.

A. Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation: This item was not reviewed by the CAC.

B. Issues: No issues have been identified.

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- C. Fiscal Impact: The current contract is the maximum that can be funded under the Caltrans-approved “pre-engineering” limit of \$612,000, given the other pre-engineering costs (environmental, permitting, mitigation, staff time, etc). The River Parkway grant funds, previously requested by your Board, will be utilized in part to pay for the augment, when those funds are received.
- D. Environmental Review. Not applicable.

ALTERNATE ACTIONS

1. Approve contract amendment.
 2. Do not approve contract amendment and give staff other direction.
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RECOMMENDATION:

Approve contract amendment with T.Y. Lin International to authorize an augment in the Scope of Work of \$117,350.60.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Carter
Deputy Director

Attachment:

1. Letter from T.Y. Lin, 8/27/03 and Scope of Work Amendment No. 2

Agenda Item 3
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: CAC Chair and Vice-Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve CAC Chair and Vice-Chair as recommended by CAC

DISCUSSION:

The guidelines pertaining to CAC officers are included in the JPA Agreement and the CAC By-Laws. These documents say that the CAC is to recommend a Vice-Chair to the JPA Board annually. Additionally, the CAC Chair position is to be confirmed by the Board, after recommendation by the CAC. This year, changes were made to the CAC By-Laws that affect the terms of the officers. The term of the Chairmanship is now two years, renewable by appointment for a total of 3 terms.

At the CAC's November 7th meeting the Nominating Committee recommended the re-appointment of the current Chair and Vice-Chair. The CAC voted to approve this recommendation and is seeking your Board's concurrence. The current chair is Dr. Phil Pryde and the current vice-chair is Margaret Schlesinger, both of whom are willing to serve again.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carter
Deputy Director

Agenda Item 4
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA Board

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution Applying for “Whaletail Grant” from Coastal Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution Applying for “Whaletail Grant” from Coastal Commission

SITUATION:

A. Background

The Coastal Commission’s Whale Tail Grants Program distributes funds from sales of the Whale Tail License Plate. The grants support programs that teach California’s children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state’s marine and coastal resources. Adopt-A-Beach programs, as well as other beach maintenance and coastal habitat restoration projects that have an educational component, are also eligible for these grants. This grants program focuses on reaching communities that are currently poorly served in terms of marine and coastal education.

Your staff has prepared and submitted an application for \$50,000 from this program. The grant was due November 15th. The grant request proposes to establish the “San Dieguito River Park Field Science Lab” as a comprehensive program designed to awaken the scientist and naturalist within children, families, and adults visiting the San Dieguito Lagoon restoration area. By creating quality, multi-sensory interpretive displays, school and public tours and programs led by highly trained docents and River Park staff, scout badge programs, and other community outreach activities focusing on youth, families, adults, and seniors we hope to inspire our visitors to recognize the biologic, aesthetic, and economic importance of coastal and wetland resources.

The creation of the “San Dieguito River Park Field Science Lab” would occur over the course of three Educational Planning Modules I, II, and III. The order and the degree to which the modules are implemented is dependent upon the amount of grant funding received to support this project.

Following are excerpts from the grant application:

Interpretive Planning Module I seeks to:

- Convert an existing wood agricultural building (the Strawberry Stand) that is currently located next to Via de la Valle Road, into a temporary interpretive kiosk. The site where this structure is located will be the site of a permanent River Park Nature Center someday in the future. The temporary structure will utilize materials that will be re-used in the future permanent Nature Center. (the Strawberry Stand conversion component of this project has been funded).

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- Interpretive brochures will be created to explore, among other topics, the following subject areas:
 - An overview of the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration Project
 - Flora and fauna of the San Dieguito Lagoon
 - A self-guided walking tour of the San Dieguito Lagoon
 - An action guide to what visitors can do on a local, regional, and global level to protect and preserve coastal and marine environments
- Approximately 20 interpretive signs will identify the various naturally occurring or restored habitat areas, and explain the following using various methods:
 - How each habitat area differs from the other habitat areas
 - How they relate to each other hydrologically and geologically
 - What types of species utilize each habitat type and how they occupy it
 - What biodiversity means and why it is an important goal

Interpretive Planning Module II seeks to:

- Create a Coastal Resource and San Dieguito Lagoon-centered docent program designed to educate, empower, and create a group of highly trained docents to conduct and assist in creating comprehensive educational programs for children, families, and adults residing in and visiting San Diego County.
- Effectively train docents on programs that will include school tours, weekend science and naturalist programs, boy and girl scout badge programs, and other science-based informal education experiences for the public.
- Empower docents with the skills necessary to be comfortable working with children and adults on hands-on experiments and experiences that encourage discovery and the development of problem-solving skills
- Create activities and hands-on learning tools that invoke various senses to encourage learning and discovery

Interpretive Planning Module III seeks to:

- Establish ongoing school and boy and girl scout badge programs that:
- Heighten public awareness and appreciation of the biologic, aesthetic, and economic importance of coastal lagoons on a regional and global level
- Present how San Dieguito River and Coastal Resources are threatened and provide visitors with age-appropriate ways for them and their families to act as stewards and take action to protect these resources.
- Create age-appropriate curricula along with interactive, activity-based on site-programs, and pre- and post-visit materials for teachers that are aligned with state standards to maximize the experience and concept retention of children while minimizing preparation time for teachers
- Provide stipends for travel expenses to inland school districts, and provide learning materials and brochures in Spanish where necessary
- Create scout badge programs that expose participants to the importance and role of coastal and wetland resources while providing them with a sense of achievement as they advance in their own programs.

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CAC RECOMMENDATION

This item was not considered by the CAC.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is categorically exempt from CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ALTERNATIVES

1. Apply for grant.
2. Do not apply for grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

Attachment:
Draft Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is a legally constituted public/governmental entity, under the laws of the State of California, and is in complete control of its affairs through its own officers and members,

WHEREAS, the JPA has the authority to submit a proposal for grant funding to the California Coastal Commission and the authority to enter into a contract with the Coastal Commission if the grant is awarded,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority hereby approves the filing of an application for the California Coastal Commission's 2003/2004 WHALE TAIL COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM and designates Executive Director Dick Bobertz as its authorized representative to execute any required contracts related to the grant and its implementation.

Adopted on the _____ day of _____ by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

Tom Golich, Chair

Attest: _____
Dick Bobertz, Executive Director

Agenda Item 5
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA Board

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution Applying for Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program Grant for Land Acquisition

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution Applying for Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program Grant for Land Acquisition

SITUATION:

A. Background

Staff recommends that the County of San Diego, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the JPA cooperate in the purchase of the 43-acre Jauch property, located on Highland Valley Road in south San Pasqual Valley. The property contains high quality mixed chaparral and coastal sage scrub, and is adjacent to other open space land owned by the City of San Diego. It is in the County's unincorporated area, in the approved MSCP pre-approved PAMA. The property is currently on the market. The proposal is that the property would be acquired using a combination of EEMP grant funds, \$100,000 in County MSCP general funds, and \$100,000 from the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. The JPA would own and manage the property in perpetuity. The grant request is for \$250,000.

CAC RECOMMENDATION

This item was not considered by the CAC.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is categorically exempt from CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ALTERNATIVES

1. Apply for grant.
2. Do not apply for grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director
Attachment:
1. Draft Resolution
2. Location Map

Resolution No: _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER
PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR
GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION
PROGRAM UNDER THE SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS
CODE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:**

ACQUISITION OF JAUCH PROPERTY ON HIGHLAND VALLEY ROAD

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has enacted AB 471 (Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 1989), which is intended to provide \$10 million annually for a period of 10 years for grant funds to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Resources Agency has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures and criteria established by the Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the applicant's governing body before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the application contains assurances that the applicant must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the environmental enhancement and mitigation project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for grant assistance.
2. Certifies that said applicant will make adequate provisions for operation and maintenance of the project.
3. Appoints Dick Bobertz, Executive Director, as agent of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and Adopted the _____ day of _____, 2003.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number _____ was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority following roll call vote:

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Absent: _____

Tom Golich, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Dick Bobertz, Executive Director

Agenda Item 6
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Nominating Committee's Recommendations for next year's Chair and Vice-Chair & Committees

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Nominating Committee's Recommendations for next year's Chair and Vice-Chair & Committees

SITUATION:

A. Summary and Recommendation

In accordance with JPA Board Rule #1, Election of JPA Board Officers, a nominating committee is to be appointed by the Chair in October of each calendar year. The nominating committee is to present to the Board of Directors for their consideration, a proposed slate which includes nominations for the two officers (Chair and Vice-Chair). The Chair has appointed a committee of three JPA Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee: Phil Pryde, Jerry Finnell and Ed Gallo. The Committee was expected to meet before today's meeting and prepare a recommended slate of officers for the Board's review and approval. The slate will be presented at today's meeting.

In addition, your Board appoints members annually to serve on the ad hoc Land Use Committee, Acquisition & Financing Strategies Committee, Budget/Administration/Policy Committee and Wetland Advisory Committee. Each Boardmember was asked to review last year's list of committee assignments and advise the Committee or staff if changes were desired. Based on that input, the attached draft recommended committee list has been prepared.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation – This item has not been reviewed by the CAC.

C. Issues – No issues have been identified.

ALTERNATE ACTIONS

1. Approve the slate of officers and committee members recommended by the Nominating Committee.
2. Do not approve the Nominating Committee's slate and elect a slate using an alternate procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

Attachments:

- 1) JPA Board Rule #1, Election of JPA Board Officers
- 2) Draft Committee List

Agenda Item 7
November 21, 2003

TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Trees in Lake Hodges

RECOMMENDATION:

Send a letter to Regional Water Quality Control Board with copy to City of San Diego Water Department and appropriate regulatory agencies stating that the large trees growing in Lake Hodges pose several potential impacts to water quality and quantity and should be removed.

SITUATION:

A. Background

At their November 7th meeting, the River Park's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) voted to recommend that your Board take action on the issue of the trees that have grown in Lake Hodges where there used to be water. The water level at Lake Hodges is unusually low at 270 feet elevation, which is 13 percent of capacity, due to several years of drought. When full, the lake elevation is at 315 feet. The lake currently relies solely on rainfall. A large "forest" of willow trees has grown in the dry lakebed and many of these trees now reach 20 to 30 feet in height (see Attachment 1). Some invasive species also exist (namely Tamarisk), but the dominant species is Willow.

B. Issues

San Dieguito River Park staff have received numerous calls from the public regarding the trees in Lake Hodges. The lake is owned and operated by the City of San Diego Water Department. Although the City itself does not use the reservoir for potable water at this time, the Santa Fe Irrigation District and the San Dieguito Water Districts have been purchasing water from the City since 1969 to supply the areas of Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas and portions of Carlsbad. The Santa Fe Irrigation District has been meeting with City Water Department representatives to urge them to remove the trees because they pose a threat to public health and safety. The concern is that once the lake fills again the trees will rot in place producing pollutants. Other concerns include potential odors and aesthetic issues from rotting vegetation. The SFID has requested the City to take a proactive managed approach to controlling the problem. However, the City has not taken any action to date.

One of the park objectives in the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan is to "Optimize the water quality and quantity of all groundwater resources and surface water bodies within the planning area through water conservation, erosion control, pollution control and restoration." (Concept Plan, page 11). Indeed, water forms the linear system that defines the river valley, and the vision of the River

Agenda Item 7

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Park reflects a commitment to protect the area's natural waterways. The lake itself and the surrounding trail system is a popular recreational and scenic resource and represents the geographic center of the River Park.

Removing the trees would likely require permits from state and federal agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game. In addition, because it has been reported that the endangered least Bells vireo are nesting in the willow habitat, the US Fish and Wildlife will also need to be consulted.

CAC RECOMMENDATION

At their November 7, 2003 meeting the CAC voted to recommend that the JPA Board write a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board requesting that the trees in Lake Hodges be removed (22 in favor, 2 opposed). They recommended that the letter be copied to the City of San Diego Water Department and to the appropriate resources agencies (Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, etc.).

ALTERNATIVES

1. Send a letter as recommended.
2. Do not send a letter
3. Give staff direction to develop additional information.

RECOMMENDATION

Send letter to Regional Water Quality Control Board with copy to City of San Diego Water Department and appropriate regulatory agencies stating that the large trees growing in Lake Hodges pose several potential impacts to water quality and quantity and should be removed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Anderson
Principal Environmental Planner

Attachments:

1. North County Times Article dated October 26, 2003