

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of June 17, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sherri Lightner Chair  
Olga Diaz -Vice Chair  
Don Mosier  
John Mullin, Alt.  
Pam Slater-Price  
Dianne Jacob  
Phil Pryde, Alt.

**REPRESENTING**

City of San Diego  
City of Escondido  
City of Del Mar  
City of Poway  
County of San Diego  
County of San Diego  
Citizens Advisory Committee

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Wayne Brechtel	JPA Counsel
Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Introduction and Announcements**

Chair Lightner convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101. Boardmember Pryde introduced CAC members in attendance as, Jacqueline Winterer and John Degenfelder.

**Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2011**

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17 meeting, Boardmember Don Mosier seconded the motion. All in favor

**Executive Director's Report-** Executive Director Bobertz had no report.

**Public Comment-** None

**CONSENT**

**1. Property and Liability Insurance**

**Recommendation:** Adopt attached resolution authorizing participation in the Special District Management Authority's Property and Liability Insurance program.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the consent item and Boardmember Mullin seconded. All in favor

**ACTION AGENDA**

**2. Adoption of FY 11/12 Budget**

**Recommendation:** Adopt Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget

Chair Lightner expressed thanks to Boardmembers Diaz and Mosier for their efforts to add additional revenue to the FY11/12 budget by funding the same amount as in the 08/09 budget year.

Ms. Lightner read the options to fill the shortfall this year as:

1. Some or all member agencies agree to revert to FY 2008/09 funding (Del Mar and Escondido agreed to revert, which provides \$22,393)
2. Borrow from endowment ( up to \$30,000 is available from appreciated funds)
3. Defer replacing Outreach Specialist for six months (saves \$33,000)
4. Various combinations of above

Ms. Lightner said she would entertain a motion to approve options 1 and 3 (defer replacing the Outreach Specialist) in the staff recommendation with the proviso that option 3 would be deferred only the time needed to achieve the savings necessary.

Boardmember Jacob asked about the repercussions of not replacing the Outreach Specialist promptly since this is a vital position to the River Park. Her concerns included getting all the volunteers organized , patrol training, special projects and hikes.

Deputy Director Carter said that this position is critical to the River Park and noted that we are already shorthanded with our rangers. The volunteers that we have are imperative to the River Park's operations and when you have volunteers, you must have a coordinator to channel these people into the spots that they are most needed. We have been working for months with the San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative to establish a real relationship to extend educational programming along with the Junior Naturalist program that is ready to go but will be delayed with the resignation of our coordinator. The monthly electronic newsletter is another way to get the information out to the public on our programs and this needs to be continued through this transition. Ms. Carter said that we are concerned about impacts to Park operations if filling this position is delayed.

Boardmember Jacob stated that the Board agreed at the last meeting that the interest from our endowment fund could be spent for this shortfall for this fiscal year, provided that we do not touch the principal. Ms. Jacob said that she supports that next year the County of San Diego would also revert to the funding from 2008/09 and increase the JPA budget. It was suggested that the City of San Diego find some funding since the River Park contributes greatly to the City of San Diego residents.

Boardmember Jacob moved to adopt the FY 11/12 budget and salary/staffing schedule, and fill the shortfall using option 1 & 2 and direct staff to proceed with the hiring of the Outreach Specialist. Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor.

Boardmember Pryde requested a discussion by staff on how much would be taken from accounts and the savings from not hiring for a few months.

Director Bobertz stated that the increase from the additional funds from Del Mar and Escondido would be \$22,394 which leaves the balance of the shortfall as \$27,213. If it takes 3 months to hire an Outreach Specialist that would save about \$15,000 leaving the balance coming from the Endowment Fund.

Chair Lightner asked if the current salary would be passed on to the new applicant and Ms. Carter stated that the salary would be commensurate with work experience and skills of the new hire.

Boardmember Slater-Price said that she also supports increasing the County of San Diego's contribution next year by reverting to the FY 08/09 levels. She added that she was pleased to provide TOT Neighborhood Reinvestment funds for interpretive signs and entry monuments this year.

3. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Craig Adams said the Conservancy with consultation from the River Park staff have adopted a new strategic plan . Mr. Adams spoke about a hike that the Conservancy planned on private property that adjoins the River Park and County of San Diego property which showed the cooperation of each organization and private land owners.
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Jacqueline Winterer, President of the Friends, reported on a Coastal Commission meeting that Dawn Rauls attended with her regarding the application from the Fairgrounds about the 66,000 sq ft tent structure for golf uses and how they made a request for consideration of non permitted uses. The Coastal Commission staff recommended approval with some conditions. The Fairgrounds representative, Dustin Fuller and three supporters were speaking in favor of the project but Jacqueline and Dawn took the opportunity to enlighten the Coastal Commission that some conditions that have been placed the Fairgrounds in the past have been ignored. The question was asked as to why conditions are placed when they are ignored and she asked for punitive action which would impose fines. The Coastal Commission reconsidered their approval of the application and discussed the new information and some commissioners felt that denial of the application would send a message to the Fairgrounds that violation issues must be addressed. She said that in the end the application was continued until the matter could be further investigated.
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

4. Status Reports(oral)

- a. River Park Projects- Deputy Director Carter said that we do not have anything new at this time. The Heritage trail is very close to opening. The lagoon, Mesa Loop and Reach the Beach alternative trail will be discussed at the July meeting.
- b. Proposed Trail Parking/Staging Area in Del Mar- Director Bobertz said that there was nothing new at this time.

5. Jurisdictional Status Reports Boardmember Jacob said that the County of San Diego has preserved 3500 acres in the Grasslands and we opened the first trail segment, which is a 4 mile trail. John Degenfelder said that Old Survey 97 project which was dedicated by the County Supervisors in 1854 is being reviewed by the San Diego Historical Board, which meets every 3 months. Steven Van Wormer of the SDHB has been trying to get this project off the ground.

Boardmember Mosier reported on the former recycling area suggested for a staging lot for the River Park has had the fence removed and this has improved the view of the lagoon. Some boulders were installed at the entrance of the lot so that no unauthorized parking would take place.

Boardmember Diaz said that she and her children love to go on the Lake Hodges Bridge and noted how proud they are that this bridge and trail are in their community. They also bring out-

of -town guests to the bridge instead of shopping. Ms. Diaz stated that the City of Escondido will be able to pay the extra amount due to the fact that in previous years when the assessment was lowered, the City of Escondido viewed it as a temporary discount. Ms. Diaz brought a report on the Escondido Creek with studies done by the students at Cal Poly recommending small changes that can reinvent the creek with trails. It is a document that can be found on [www.revealthecreek.com](http://www.revealthecreek.com) for everyone's review. The building code has been changed in Escondido to include improvements to the creek for any project that is built near the area. Ms. Diaz said that she chairs the new Escondido Creek Watershed Alliance which focuses on keeping the watershed clean with their partners and requested that the San Dieguito River Park attend their meetings.

Deputy Director Carter said that the proposed Neighborhood Reinvestment funding from Boardmember Slater Price will be used to create some signs at the end of the Lake Hodges Bridge to inform the public about the design of the longest Stressed Ribbon Bridge in the world along with the Old 395 section of the trail that was the original crossing. A sign about water quality and watershed protection at the lake will also be created.

Chair Lightner said that the City of San Diego Planning Commission heard the Polo Club proposal to put a 25' track around the polo field. Most of the commissioners were not in favor of the changes at the polo fields and the City Attorney stated that if they were going to change the project we need to go back to the beginning with a CEQA evaluation. Part of the problem was the impact to the soccer fields, so this project has been continued to July 14<sup>th</sup>.

6. Communications-

a. Thank you letter from SDG&E re participation in Lagoon Week festivities.  
Director Bobertz said that this is a letter thanking our Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara Baker, for her participation in these children's programs.

Boardmember Slater-Price was thankful for the efforts of the River Park for this delightful program. It is very well attended and she thanked the Volunteer Coordinator for all the wonderful programs that have been planned over the years. SDG&E has been a great partner in these programs and we are so appreciative.

7. CLOSED SESSION- Counsel Brechtel said that there was no need for the Board to discuss the litigation today.

Chair Lightner adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

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Executive Director