SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Friday, January 16, 2009
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.- New Board Members

Outgoing Chair’s Report of Accomplishments in 2008

Approval of the Minutes of December 12, 2008

Executive Directors Report

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.

ACTION

1. Ad Hoc Committee Assignments for 2009 (page 3)

2. Poway Heritage Connector Trail (page 5)

3. Office Reconstruction Plans, Permitting and Funding (page 21)

4. Prospective Donation for Lake Hodges Bike Ped Bridge Shortfall (page 23)

INFORMATION

5. Presentation on the Grand Avenue Bridge Overlook Project (powerpoint)

6. State Budget Impacts on SDRP (oral report)

7. Potential Federal Stimulus Bill Opportunities for SDRP (oral report)
INFORMATION

8. Coordination Reports (oral)
   a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
   b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
   c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
   d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee

9. Status Reports (Oral)
   a. Fire Recovery
   b. River Park Projects

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

11. Communications
    a. Letter to Pedro Orso-Delgado from JPA re San Dieguito Lagoon Sign on I-5 in Caltrans Right-of-Way, 12/13/08 (page 24)
    b. Letter to Jim Barrett, City of San Diego Water Dept., from JPA re Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund Request, 1/7/09 (page 25)

THE NEXT REGULAR JPA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009.

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 JPA has converted to an email distribution of both agendas. Please advise the office at 858 674-2270 if you do not have an e-mail address and want other arrangements will be made. Full packets will continue to be mailed free of charge to JPA and CAC members upon request. 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
TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Committee Assignments for 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and approve a new Ad Hoc Committee roster for 2009

SITUATION:

Summary and Recommendation

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. See the description of each committee’s function on the attached draft roster. The attached list is based on a substitution of new members into the committee assignments held by their predecessors.

Staff recommends that the Board members discuss the draft assignments at today’s meeting, make changes as desired, and approve a roster for 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director
JPA AD HOC COMMITTEES, 2009

Land Use Committee
Richard Earnest
Pam Slater-Price
Betty Rexford
Sherri Lightner
1st Alternate: Olga Diaz
2nd Alternate: Dave Roberts

Duties: 1) Review CAC and staff recommendations on pending projects, when warranted. Make project recommendations to JPA Board.
2) Consider planning and environmental issues that relate to the San Dieguito River Park.

Acquisition and Financing Strategies Committee
Dave Roberts
Pam Slater-Price
Phil Pryde
Betty Rexford
1st Alternate: Richard Earnest
2nd Alternate: Dianne Jacob

Duties: 1) Review staff recommendations and advise staff on property negotiation. Make acquisition recommendations to JPA Board.
2) Serve as “Investment Committee”. Responsibilities as Investment Committee include review of internal and external endowment funds, preparation of annual analysis and report to the Board, and rebalancing of assets in internal fund as appropriate.

Budget/Administration/Policy Committee
Sherri Lightner
Olga Diaz
Richard Earnest
Dave Roberts
1st Alternate: Betty Rexford
2nd Alternate: Carl DeMaio

Duties: 1) Review draft budget and work program and present recommendations to JPA Board
2) Executive Director Performance Review
3) Make recommendations regarding standing or ad hoc committees and membership
4) Review and set JPA policies and by-laws

Wetlands Advisory Committee
Pam Slater-Price
Richard Earnest
Dave Roberts
Phil Pryde
Jacqueline Winterer, Public Member

Duties: Review and recommend policies and plans relating to the San Dieguito Lagoon Wetland Restoration Project

Representation on 22nd District Agricultural Association Master Plan Committee
Richard Earnest
Sherri Lightner
Dave Roberts, Alternate
TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Poway Heritage Connector Trail

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached Resolution for Heritage Connector Trail adopting the Addendum to the previously adopted Mule Hill/San Pasqual Mitigated Negative Declaration to extend the trail to connect to the Poway Heritage Trail.

SITUATION:

A. Background

In 2000, your Board approved the Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail segment of the Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The trail was constructed in 2002. The San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan and San Pasqual Valley community plan include a connection of this trail in San Pasqual Valley to the trail system in Poway. The Heritage Trail connection is also included in the JPA’s Work Plan. JPA staff has provided your Board with periodic updates on this project over the past several years. The Heritage Trail into Poway is part of Poway’s regional trail system including the Trans County Trail. The Heritage trail link represents the first connection between two regional east/west trails in the County.

In 2006 the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy received a private donation to build the Heritage Trail. This grant allowed the JPA staff to proceed on acquiring the permits and approvals needed to construct the trail including a Site Development Permit from the City of San Diego, and to buy materials. JPA rangers will build the trail.

Heritage is named for the golf course project in the City of Poway that was approved in 2000 (now called Maderas). The Heritage development project included a joint emergency access road and public trail from the project in Poway to Highland Valley Road in San Pasqual Valley. As part of that project, the City of Poway coordinated with the City of San Diego and other parties including JPA staff to finalize the road/trail route to Highland Valley Road (Attachment 1). Most of the road/trail has been built, but it is JPA staff’s understanding that the City of Poway has not yet secured final funding from the project developer to complete the trail all the way to Highland Valley Road. A portion of the trail goes through the Evergreen Nursery on city of San Diego-owned land leased to Evergreen.

In addition to the private donation, Mark Collins of Evergreen Nursery has been extremely cooperative with the JPA and City of Poway to route the Heritage Trail through his tree nursery including grading a staging area at the end of the Heritage Trail. The staging area has direct
access off of Highland Valley Road and will provide parking for trail users who wish to access the Heritage Trail into Poway or the Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley.

B. Issues

JPA staff is currently completing the permitting process with the City of San Diego. Because the trail extension is partially located on Environmentally Sensitive Lands in the form of wetlands that cannot be avoided, a Site Development Permit is required from the City of San Diego. The trail would impact 0.02 acre of disturbed wetlands, which requires a Process 4 approval from the City Planning Commission. With an approved MND, the permit approval will likely be docketed for the February 2009 commission meeting.

The attached draft MND Addendum discusses the following environmental issues:

1. Alternative alignments were explored by JPA staff and City of San Diego staff to avoid impacts to wetlands. However, because Highland Valley Road is a curving road, safe trail crossing locations are limited. To provide maximum line-of-sight for trail users and vehicles, a crossing location that impacted some wetlands was unavoidable because wetlands in this area are extensive. However, the trail was routed through an area of disturbed wetlands covered with invasive plant species (arundo and pepperweed). A 0.03-acre area adjacent to the trail and San Dieguito River will be enhanced as mitigation for the 0.02 acre of wetland impact. Enhancement will include removing invasive plants and replanting with natives. The previously-approved MND identified wetland impacts associated with trail construction, and this change does not substantially increase the severity of those impacts and is in compliance with all existing regulations regarding mitigation for wetland impacts.

2. A complete biological impact report and species surveys were done for the trail alignment. No biological impacts were identified with the exception of impacts to disturbed wetlands as described above. Sensitive species surveys for least Bell’s vireo, California gnatcatcher, and southwestern willow flycatcher were conducted. These species were found within the survey area (in San Dieguito River riparian area and adjacent uplands) but were not observed utilizing the habitat in the area of the proposed trail, and the project site does not support suitable habitat for these species. However, because the project area is within the MHPA, project trail grading would be done outside of the bird breeding season (March 15 to September 15).

3. A cultural survey was completed to document any previously-recorded or new cultural sites in the area. One site was documented, although it is not within the trail alignment and would not be impacted by the project.

4. The previous MND required that where the trail is adjacent to farming operations, warning signs be placed along the trail to warn trail users to stay on the trail and entering a farming area where pesticides and heavy equipment are used. The subject trail extension would include a sign of this nature since it is partially located within a farming operation. Agen
The previous MND also required that a protocol be established by the JPA to close sections of trail during any agricultural chemical application. The JPA initiated this protocol in 2002 and it is currently in use for the San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail. This protocol would apply to the Evergreen Nursery since the trail would be on and adjacent to the farm operations site. In addition, the JPA would provide the City and Evergreen Nursery with the same indemnity protection that is provided to the City and leaseholders for the Mule Hill Trail.

No new impacts to hazards and hazardous materials would result from the proposed trail extension.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Trail construction requires a discretionary site development permit from the City of San Diego because it would impact environmentally sensitive lands including the 100-year floodplain and wetlands, and requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The SDP that was originally issued for the Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail is being amended to include the trail extension to Highland Valley Road. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the trail was approved by your Board in 2000, but that MND did not include the subject trail extension and so now must be addressed.

In accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines the lead agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously adopted MND if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 call for a subsequent MND. Based on the proposed trail project and substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, this Addendum is prepared.

CAC RECOMMENDATION

The CAC has been regularly informed on the progress of the Heritage Connector Trail including at their last meeting on January 9, 2009. This Addendum was not reviewed by the CAC.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Heritage Trail is being financed by a private donation, and would not represent a fiscal impact to the JPA. The Heritage Trail to Highland Valley Road and the staging area will be maintained and managed by the JPA.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the attached resolution.
2. Do not approve the attached resolution and give staff other direction.
RECOMMENDATION

Approve the attached Resolution for Heritage Connector Trail adopting the Addendum to the previously adopted Mule Hill/San Pasqual Mitigated Negative Declaration to extend the trail to connect to the Poway Heritage Trail.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna C. Anderson, AICP
Principal Environmental Planner

Attachments: 1. Surrounding Vicinity Map
2. Draft Resolution Adopting an Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail: Mule Hill San Pasqual Valley Trail Segments
RESOLUTION NO. R09-1

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

ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION TO EXTEND THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK MULE HILL/SAN PASQUAL VALLEY TRAIL TO THE POWAY HERITAGE TRAIL

WHEREAS, the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) proposes to extend the existing Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail approximately 1,000 feet to connect to the Poway Heritage Trail;

WHEREAS, the Poway Heritage Trail will be constructed by the City of Poway from the Heritage project in Poway (now called Maderas) along the edge of the Evergreen Nursery in the City of San Diego to Highland Valley Road;

WHEREAS, the JPA’s proposed Heritage Connector Trail would extend the Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail 200 feet, 5-foot wide to Highland Valley Road, cross the road, and travel along the edge of the Evergreen Nursery farm road to an existing trail staging area for a total length of 1,000 feet to connect to the Poway Heritage Trail;

WHEREAS, the Heritage Connector Trail would be a multi-use trail but is not a segment of the San Dieguito River Park’s Coast to Crest Trail;

WHEREAS, the JPA previously adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mule Hill Trail, which has been constructed and is used daily by members of the public; and

WHEREAS, to address the Heritage Connector Trail the JPA prepared an addendum to the MND, attached as Exhibit A (Addendum).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the JPA Board of Directors, that it hereby adopts the Addendum in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and Section 15164(b) of the CEQA Guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Addendum and MND reflect the independent judgment and analysis of the JPA as the Lead Agency and that the information they contain has been reviewed and considered by the JPA Board of Directors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a subsequent or supplemental MND pursuant to Section 15162 was not required because:

1. There are no substantial changes to the project which would require major revisions of the previous MND from the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
2. No substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that would require major revisions to the previous MND; and

3. There is no new information of substantial importance to the project that reveals new significant impacts from the project not discussed in the previous MND, significant impacts that would be substantially more severe, mitigation measures previously found infeasible that would now be feasible to substantially reduce one or more significant effects, or measures that are considerably different that were declined could now be implemented to reduce impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the JPA Board of Directors hereby adopts the Mitigated, Monitoring and Reporting Program in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the JPA shall extend the same indemnity protection to the City and any leaseholder impacted by the Heritage Connector Trail that is provided by the JPA to the City and leaseholders for the Mule Hill Trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the location and custodian of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based is as follows:

San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
14103 Highland Valley Road
Escondido, CA 92025

Approved and Adopted the ________________ day of __________, 2009.

Ayes: __________

Noes: __________

Absent: __________

Abstain: __________

_____________________________________________________

Pam Slater-Price, Chair

ATTEST: Dick Bobertz, Executive Director

Attachment: Exhibit A, Addendum to the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail: Mule Hill/San Pasqual Valley Trail Segments
ADDENDUM TO FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK COAST TO CREST TRAIL: MULE HILL/SAN PASQUAL VALLEY TRAIL SEGMENTS

City of San Diego Project No. 155513
Addendum to MND Project No. 40-0711

SUBJECT:
Poway Heritage Trail Connection. To extend the existing San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail for a distance of 200 feet to connect to the Poway Heritage Trail in San Pasqual Valley. The trail is a multi-use trail for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicycles and would link the Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley located in the City of San Diego to the trail system in the City of Poway.

I. DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT ACTION:

The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) proposes to construct a 200-foot long extension of an existing segment of the San Dieguito River Park’s Coast to Crest Trail. The new 200-foot long extension would connect to an existing farm road and extend an additional 800 feet. The extension would physically connect the 9.5-mile long San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail segment of the Coast to Crest Trail to the Poway Heritage Trail. This connection would link two regional trails, the Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley and the Trans-County Trail in Poway. Due to the trail’s location within Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL), a Site Development Permit (SDP) from the City of San Diego would be required.

The Poway Heritage trail ends at Highland Valley Road approximately two miles east of Pomerado Road in the San Pasqual Valley – less than 1,000 feet from the existing San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail. Most of that trail is within the City of Poway. The Heritage trail was required to be built as a permit condition by the developer of the Heritage residential project (now called Maderas). The trail terminates at a 70’ x 100’ unpaved (dirt) trail staging area located on the Evergreen Nursery at the corner of the nursery entrance with Highland Valley Road (Figure 1).

The Poway Heritage Trail Connection is proposed as a 200-foot long by 5-foot wide earthen trail extending in an easterly direction from the existing Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley to Highland Valley Road (Figure 2). At that point the trail would cross the road and continue on an existing farm road to the staging area for the Poway Heritage Trail for a total distance of approximately 1,000 feet.
The 200 feet of trail extending from the existing San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail requires a site development permit pursuant to the City of San Diego’s Municipal Code section 126.0502 because it is proposed through Environmentally Sensitive Lands in the form of wetlands just west of Highland Valley Road. The balance of the trail, 800 feet, does not require a site development permit because it is located on an existing farm road within City-owned land leased to Evergreen Tree Nursery.

Proposed Trail Alignment
The Heritage Connector trail would accommodate hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The trail would extend past the staging area along an existing farm road on the south/east side of Highland Valley Road. The trail would be located along the farm road. A row of large trees that would remain separates the farm road from Highland Valley Road. The trail would cross Highland Valley Road at a location approximately 800 feet from the staging area. The trail would then continue away from the road toward the Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail for approximately 200 feet. The trail would terminate at the San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail for a total length of 1,000 feet (0.18 mile). The connector trail would be approximately 5-feet wide and surfaced with decomposed granite mixed with the native dirt. Lodgepole fencing may be placed along the trail where adjacent wetlands are present.

Highland Valley Road Crossing
The location for the road crossing was selected to maintain the maximum line-of-sight for trail users and drivers. It is located equi-distant between two curves on Highland Valley Road. Warning signs, per City guidelines, would be placed along both sides of Highland Valley Road and the trail to warn drivers and trail users of the trail crossing. A barrier would also be placed on the trail before the road crossing to force trail users to stop before crossing the road. The barrier would consist of boulders or bollards across the trail along with directional signs to force trail users to slow down or stop and cross the road safely.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The project is located in San Pasqual Valley, an agricultural preserve most of which is owned by the City of San Diego and leased for various agricultural uses. It is within the San Pasqual-Lake Hodges Planning Group area and the City’s Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). The project is also within the 100-year floodplain and disturbed wetlands that are almost entirely non-native plant species. The area is adjacent to the San Dieguito River which runs in an east/west direction through San Pasqual Valley.

III. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the previously-approved San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail was adopted by the San Dieguito River Park JPA Board of Directors on June 16, 2000 (resolution number R00-5) and by the San Diego City Council as a responsible agency on February 6, 2001 (resolution number R-294528). The MND concluded that issues regarding agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials, and traffic would be mitigated and measures were incorporated into the project to reduce impacts to below a level of significance. The trail was completed in 2002. The current project does not result in any new impacts that were not identified in the previous MND and measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts have been
incorporated into this project.

IV. DETERMINATION

The San Dieguito River Park JPA adopted an MND for the San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail in 2000. A subsequent MND pursuant to Section 15162 was not prepared for this change because:

a. There are no substantial changes to the project which would require major revisions of the previous MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

The proposed trail extension is in the same project area as the previously approved trail project and extends the existing trail by 200 feet. The previously approved MND identified impacts to wetlands from trail construction within the 100-year floodplain of the San Dieguito River. The subject trail would impact 0.02 acre of similar wetlands in the vicinity of the existing trail and would require a level of mitigation consistent with that required in the previous MND for the trail. The impacted wetlands are invaded with non-native species, thus the proposed trail extension would not increase the severity of previously significant effects.

b. No substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that would require major revisions to the previous MND.

The trail addressed in the previously-approved MND has now been constructed, but all other circumstances under which the project will be undertaken are substantially the same. No development has occurred in the project area and the same uses exist (i.e., agricultural preserve, open space and a tree farm). As with the previously approved trail project, the JPA will be responsible for constructing and maintaining the trail extension.

c. There is no new information of substantial importance to the project that would result in new impacts from the project not discussed in the previous MND, or significant impacts would be substantially more severe, mitigation measures previously found infeasible would now be feasible to substantially reduce one or more significant effects, or measures that are considerably different that were declined could now be implemented to reduce impacts.

The information contained in the previously-approved MND remains relevant today. The information regarding biological and cultural resources has been updated for the trail extension area and no new information was identified that was not included in the previous MND. No new impacts that were not identified in the previous MND were identified for this trail extension.

Mitigation for the previously approved project that would avoid impacts to cultural resources and minimize and mitigate impacts to biological resources have been incorporated into the subject trail extension. These impacts and mitigation measures are identified in this Addendum and include avoidance of cultural resources, archaeological monitoring during trail construction, and wetland enhancement. No new mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce impacts to below a level of significance.
Therefore, in accordance with Section 15164(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines this addendum to the original MND has been prepared.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Biological Resources

The trail extension was evaluated in a biological technical report that describes the biological resources on the site and whether the project would impact those resources (Biological Technical Report for the San Dieguito River Park JPA Heritage Connector Trail Project, TAIC, November 20, 2008).

Site specific habitat assessments and plant and wildlife surveys were conducted by qualified biologists at TAIC for the subject area between April and July 2007 (Figure 3). The survey area is between 300 feet and 1,000 feet beyond the proposed project footprint. Based on the survey results and proposed project footprint, it was determined that the proposed trail extension would impact 0.015-acre of disturbed wetlands, tamarisk scrub, and arundo donax dominant southern willow scrub. Another 0.006-acre of temporary impacts to these same habitats is anticipated to occur from trail construction activities. The total impact to sensitive vegetation would be 0.021 acre (915 square feet). Non-native and invasive species of tamarisk, arundo, and pepperweed exist throughout the project area. This area is considered jurisdictional wetlands according to City of San Diego and California Department of Fish and Game definitions. According to the results of the biological studies, the functions and values of the impacted wetlands are low due to the predominance of non native species.

The project would not have any direct impact to detected sensitive species or their habitats. The least Bell’s vireo, California gnatcatcher, and southwestern willow flycatcher were all detected in the survey area; however, these species were not observed utilizing the habitat in the area of the proposed trail, and the project site does not support suitable habitat for these species. However, because the project site is within the MHPA, clearing, grubbing and grading for the trail extension would occur outside of these species’ breeding season to avoid any indirect noise impacts.

Because the proposed trail extension would impact jurisdictional wetlands, compensatory mitigation is required to offset permanent and temporary biological impacts associated with trail construction. Permanent project impacts will be mitigated by restoring/enhancing an adjacent area of existing disturbed wetlands at a ratio of 2:1 resulting in an area of 0.03 acre or 1,310 square feet of enhanced habitat. The project mitigation would entail removing invasive non-native plants and replanting with native species such as willows, mule fat and other species common in the area. A detailed restoration plan in accordance with City of San Diego guidelines is included in the project biological technical report. The restoration/enhancement is designed to restore the functions and values of the wetland habitat directly adjacent to the San Dieguito River and near the trail. In addition, trail clearing and grading will be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell’s vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher (construction to occur between September 15 and March 15). Hand work may occur outside of the breeding season as no sensitive species occur in the project area and it would not cause noise impacts.
The project change would not cause any significant impacts that cannot be mitigated by the proposed compensatory mitigation of restoration and enhancement. No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated.

**Cultural Resources**

The project area for the original Coast to Crest Trail San Pasqual Mule Hill segment was surveyed for cultural resources in 2000 and the project area for the trail extension was surveyed again in 2008. Based on the 2008 survey, no cultural sites were identified within the proposed trail alignment (ASM affiliates, August 11, 2008). However, one previously-recorded site exists in the vicinity of the farm road on the east side of Highland Valley Road. The trail extension would utilize a portion of the farm road but is not within the archaeology site. No impacts to cultural resources would result from the trail extension.

The following project conditions from the previous MND will be incorporated into the project to mitigate any potential impacts to cultural resources:

1. A qualified archaeologist or archaeological monitor shall attend any preconstruction meetings to discuss the archaeological monitoring program with the construction manager.

2. The qualified archaeologist or archaeological monitor shall be present on-site full-time during disturbance of native soils within or in close proximity to archaeological sites.

3. When requested by the archaeologist, the resident engineer or supervisor shall divert, direct or temporarily halt ground disturbing activities in any area of discovery to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. The archaeologist shall immediately notify City land development staff and the JPA of such finding at the time of discovery.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

The previous MND required that where the trail is adjacent to farming operations warning signs be placed along the trail to warn trail users to stay on the trail and that they are entering a farming area where pesticides and heavy equipment are used. The subject trail extension would include a sign of this nature since it is located within a farming operation.

The previous MND also required that a protocol be established by the JPA to close sections of trail during any agricultural chemical application. The JPA initiated this protocol in 2002 and it is currently in use for the San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail. This protocol would apply to the Evergreen Nursery since the trail would be on and adjacent to the farm operations site.

No new impacts to hazards and hazardous materials would result from the proposed trail extension.

**Transportation**

The proposed trail extension would cross Highland Valley Road at the identified location. The project
is in conformance with San Diego Council Policy 200-07 (April 23, 1990) that addresses pedestrian crossings on city streets. The proposed trail crossing would include both vehicular and trail user warning signs along Highland Valley Road and the proposed trail, in accordance with State regulations regarding Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Because the project is consistent with City safety guidelines and regulations regarding pedestrian crossings, no impacts are anticipated. The original MND did not identify any transportation issues applicable to the proposed change.

VI. MITIGATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM INCORPORATED INTO THE PROJECT:

1. The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority shall enhance/restore 0.03 acre of adjacent disturbed wetlands as mitigation for project impacts resulting from the proposed trail extension. Restoration shall occur in accordance with the location and procedures described in the Revegetation/Mitigation Plan for the Heritage Connector Trail Project (November 20, 2008) prepared by TAIC.

2. Trail clearing and grading will be timed to avoid the breeding season of the least Bell’s vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher (construction to occur between September 15 and March 15). Hand work may occur outside of the breeding season.

3. The JPA shall retain a qualified historic/archaeological monitor prior to commencement of trail construction. The monitor shall attend any preconstruction meetings to discuss the archaeological monitoring program with the construction manager. This monitor will be responsible for overseeing all subsurface disturbance associated with trail construction in proximity to archaeological site CA-SDI-13203. The monitor shall ensure that (1) the proposed trail alignment or site disturbance avoids cultural resources as designed and (2) unanticipated finds are handled properly.

4. When requested by the archaeologist, the resident engineer or supervisor shall divert, direct or temporarily halt ground disturbing activities in any area of discovery to allow evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. The archaeologist shall immediately notify City land development staff and the JPA of such finding at the time of discovery.

5. The JPA shall include the Evergreen Nursery in the established trail closure protocol for the San Pasqual Mule Hill Trail. The trail closure protocol specifies the protocol for closing the trail during agricultural chemical application.

_______________________________    ______________
Shawna C. Anderson, AICP, Environmental Planner    Date
San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
Figure 2

Legend

Basemap Legend

Heritage Connector Trail

Trail Connector

Heritage Trail Staging Area
Existing Heritage Trail
Proposed Heritage Trail Extension
San Pasqual Valley Trail

Legend

N

0 125 250

Feet

Document: TrailOptions in Black and White.mxd

Date: Jan 07, 2009
TO: JPA Board  
FROM: Staff  
SUBJECT: Office Reconstruction Plans, Permitting and Funding

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize Executive Director to take all necessary action to process and complete replacement of the office, using additional resources available from insurance proceeds for the Lake Sutherland East cabin.

SITUATION:

Summary and Recommendation

At your February 2008 meeting, your Board authorized staff to hire the architectural firm of Rinehart Herbst to prepare architectural designs and construction plans to rebuild the San Dieguito River Park office that was burned in the October 2007 Witch Fire. Since then, the architects have had the site surveyed, developed alternative concepts, worked with JPA staff, the City of Poway (the jurisdiction where the office was located) and the insurer. Once the requirements of the City and the insurance company were identified, the architects moved forward with architectural designs for the preferred concept that best met staff needs. The designs are now ready to be submitted to the City of Poway for processing, if your Board directs. Photos of the plans will be shown at today’s meeting.

Financial Consideration

The office was insured for replacement value. The insurance company is willing to pay for replacement of a structure of like size and quality as the office that was burned. The original office, an older house a portion of which dated to 1923, that had been built onto over the years, was 2,372 square feet in size, including garage space and 3 storage sheds. The amount of money the insurer is willing to reimburse for construction is $509,178. Staff believes that this is a fair and reasonable assessment. The new office is planned to be 2,400 square feet of office space with additional 860 square feet of garage/workshop space. Preliminary estimates by the architect indicate that the building cost for the office will be $225 per square foot and for the garage it will be $100 per square foot. Using these cost estimates, we can calculate that it will cost $626,000 to construct the new office, an amount that exceeds the insurance estimate by $116,822.

In addition to the office, a small cabin on the Lake Sutherland East property was also destroyed in the Witch Fire. That cabin had no significant purpose and represented a maintenance responsibility. Our insurance company has informed us that your Board has three options with
respect to its replacement: 1) Rebuild the cabin with funds estimated at $124,023; 2) Do not rebuild the cabin and take a cash settlement of $88,490 to hold in reserve for other needs; or 3) Do not rebuild the cabin and assign the full replacement value of $124,023 to the office rebuild. Staff recommends that your Board approve Option 3. This has the advantage of maximizing the insurance funds and using them to complete the office rebuild so that there are no shortages in replacing the office. It would also allow desirable “green” upgrades such as solar panels to supplement electrical service.

Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation – This item was reviewed by the CAC on January 9, 2009. Comments will be reported at today’s meeting.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

1. Authorize Executive Director to process and complete replacement of the office, using additional resources available from insurance proceeds for the Lake Sutherland East cabin;
2. Do not authorize Executive Director to process the office replacement as shown or use insurance proceeds to complete the construction and give staff other direction.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Executive Director to take all necessary action to process and complete replacement of the office, using additional resources available from insurance proceeds for the Lake Sutherland East cabin.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director
TO: JPA

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Prospective Donation/Loan for Lake Hodges Bridge Shortfall

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept offer of $400,000 donation and $275,000 one-year loan to be applied to the Lake Hodges Bridge $675,000 funding shortfall and direct the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to execute an agreement.

SITUATION:

The Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project funding includes $9,908,000 from grants provided through Caltrans, SANDAG and the State Resources Agency. A shortfall of $675,000 remains to be identified in time to complete the bridge this spring. At the 9/19/08 JPA Board meeting staff was directed to pursue a combination of potential funding sources including the City of San Diego Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund, income from sale of mitigation credits, line of credit/loan secured by River Park property and private donation(s).

A proposal has been received from a private contributor to donate $400,000 and provide a one-year loan of $275,000 in exchange for recognition of a family member who is a long time River Park supporter. The recognition desired is a permanent plaque installed at each end of the bridge with a message similar to “This bridge is dedicated to ________ in recognition of his enduring support of the San Dieguito River Park”.

The $275,000 market rate one-year loan, secured by the Sycamore Creek office site property would provide time to complete the Maderas Westridge donation (9/19/08 JPA Board action) and sale of mitigation credits to generate funding to pay the loan.
San Dieguito River Valley  
Regional Open Space Park  
18372 Sycamore Creek Road  
Escondido, CA 92025  
(858) 674-2270  Fax (858) 674-2280  
www.sdrp.org

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District 11 Director  
CALTRANS  
4050 Taylor Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

Dear Pedro:

As you know, the massive San Dieguito Wetland Restoration Project along the San Dieguito River is nearing completion and soon over 700 acres of restored lagoon and upland habitat on both sides of I-5 will provide striking scenic views to I-5 travelers and new recreational and educational opportunities for the general public. Over the years of development of this project, JPA Board members and staff have received many calls and questions from people who have viewed the area with alarm during their I-5 travels. Most of them were concerned because they assumed the extensive grading meant commercial or residential development in one of the last open space areas remaining in many miles along the San Diego County coast.

Recently, JPA staff has consulted with CALTRANS District 11 Traffic Operations staff to request permission to install a sign on I-5 to identify the area as the San Dieguito River and Lagoon for the benefit and direction of road users. Although the controlling standards of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways clearly identifies and even provides examples of such signage, CALTRANS staff denied the request.

Enclosed is the JPA Board agenda report containing specific information regarding the denial of San Dieguito River and Lagoon signage. I request that you review this denial and hope that you will find that our objective to identify one of the most unique habitats in the world, that happens to be spectacularly visible from I-5, is beneficial to the public.

Sincerely,

David W. Roberts  
Chairman, JPA Board
San Dieguito River Valley
Regional Open Space Park
18372 Sycamore Creek Road
Escondido, CA 92025
(858) 674-2270  Fax (858) 674-2280
www.sdrp.org

January 7, 2009

Jim Barrett, Director
Water Department
City of San Diego
202 “C” Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Barrett:

SUBJECT: San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund

The Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) respectfully requests that the funds in the San Pasqual/Lake Hodges Recreational Trust Fund (account 41505), which was established at City Council direction in 2001, be made available to the JPA for use on the Lake Hodges Bikeway Access Project. We would also request that you have your auditor establish that the transaction record is complete and that all deposits that should have gone into the account, were in fact recorded. If use of the funds requires City Council action, we request that you docket this item for the next available City Council meeting.

As you know, the Lake Hodges Bikeway Access Project has been a long time in the planning, but now construction of the first phase, the Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge, is nearly complete. As portions of it were built on Water Department property, the JPA has worked closely with your Department and other City departments to ensure that the project meets all City standards. Conditions of approval for the bridge and many design considerations were imposed to help protect important water department resources. The JPA has raised $9,908,000 in local, State and Federal funds for this project. Final payment to the contractor will be due in March 2009. We still need to raise $675,000 to complete the Phase One funding package, and $1,775,000 is needed for Phase Two, the West Bernardo Bike Path & Cantilever. The funds in the Recreational Trust Fund would go a long way toward meeting these objectives.

We understand that initially the Deputy City Attorney had concerns that the Recreational Trust Fund could not be used as the City Council had intended. However, it is our understanding that after further consideration and discussion with our attorney, Wayne Brechtel, he may have a different opinion.

We propose that the Lake Hodges Bikeway Access Project is a worthy and appropriate use of the funds in the Recreational Trust Fund because:
- The Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge is a high priority project in the City’s Bicycle Master Plan;
- The Council’s intention for the Recreational Trust Fund was for use for recreational projects in the Lake Hodges/San Pasqual area;
- The Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge is listed as a proposed project in the adopted San Pasqual Valley Plan;
- The Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge/Cantilever is located on City of San Diego Water Department property;
- The motion creating the Recreational Trust Fund and allocating 25% of the Hodges Golf Improvement Center’s rent revenue to the Fund was a condition of approval of the project by the City Council.

The Board of Directors is proud that the JPA, by obtaining all of the rest of the funding from other sources, has made a nearly $10 million gift to the residents of the City. Your help is needed so that we can finish the project on time and enable hikers and bicyclists to use it.

Sincerely,

David W. Roberts
Chair, San Dieguito River Park

cc: Councilmember District 1, Sherri Lightner
    Councilmember District 5, Carl DeMaio