SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Friday, June 20, 2014
County Administration 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 May 16, 2014

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.

CONSENT

1. Del Mar Request for Sea-Level Rise Planning Grant Letter of Support (page 3)

DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. City of San Diego Membership & Ongoing Participation in JPA (page 8)

3. CAC Review of Items Addressed by JPA Board (page 16)

4. San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk (page 20)
INFORMATION

5. Ranger Station (Maintenance Building) (page 48)

6. Founders Tribute Committee (page 49)

7. Park Project Status (oral)
   a. Sikes Adobe Creamery Grand Opening Report and Photos

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. 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.

10. Communications
    a. Letter from JPA to Apple re Birdwing Activity, June 10, 2014 (page 50)


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 to be made. 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: Del Mar Request for Sea-Level Rise Planning Grant Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide Letter of Support for Del Mar Sea-Level Rise Planning Grant

SITUATION:

The City of Del Mar has requested River Park support for a grant application to support planning for sea-level rise. The grant program was established by a joint program of the California Coastal Commission and the California Ocean Protection Council.

A description of the grant program and a draft letter of support are attached.

CAC REVIEW:

The CAC reviewed this item on June 6, 2014 and unanimously recommended that the JPA provide a letter of support.

Attachments:

1. Description of sea-level rise planning grant program
2. Draft letter of JPA support
LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM PLANNING GRANTS

JOINT APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT & INSTRUCTIONS

APRIL 23, 2014

The State of California is pleased to announce grant funding for FY14-15 to support local governments in completing or updating Local Coastal Programs (LCP) consistent with the California Coastal Act, with special emphasis on planning for sea-level rise and climate change. The grant application form is available: http://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/lcpgrantprogram.html. Grant applications are due July 7, 2014 at 5 pm.

A total of $2.2 million is available for awards through two coordinated, competitive grant programs:

- **Coastal Commission LCP Planning Grant Program**: $1 million available for updating and certifying LCPs; may include updates to address impacts of climate change and sea-level rise.
- **Ocean Protection Council (OPC) LCP Sea-Level Rise Grant Program**: $1.2 million available for work that supports LCP updates, specifically to address sea-level rise, including sea-level rise modeling, vulnerability assessments, and adaptation planning and policy development.

Joint Application Process

To simplify the process for applicants and to streamline the review of the proposals, these two programs are offering a joint application. Applicants may apply for one grant program or both using the form.

**How to Decide Which Grant to Apply For (Please Read Carefully)**

- Projects to complete certification of a LCP or complete a comprehensive LCP amendment should apply for Coastal Commission funds.
- Projects related to sea-level rise modeling and vulnerability assessments should apply for OPC funds.
- Entities responsible for Public Works Plans, Port Master Plans, and Long Range Development Plans are only eligible for the OPC LCP SLR Grant Program.
- Projects that do not have a sea-level rise component, or that have other climate adaptation issues, should apply for Coastal Commission funds.
- Projects that have both a sea-level rise analysis component and a significant LCP planning component can apply for both grant programs.
LCP Planning Grants Application Form FY 14-15

**Purpose of Grant Program**
The purpose of the grants is to support local coastal planning to develop new LCPs for certification in areas that are not currently certified, or to update existing certified LCPs to reflect new information and changed conditions, especially in light of the effects of climate change, in a manner fully consistent with the policies of the California Coastal Act. LCP completions and updates to include policies and implementing ordinances that address sea-level rise and other climate change impacts will be given special consideration. The OPC funds can also support the development of sea-level rise modeling, technical analysis, and vulnerability assessments. Priority for OPC funds will be given to planning approaches that emphasize use of natural infrastructure to address climate change impacts.

**Background**

**The Need to Update and Certify Local Coastal Programs**
The LCP Program is an essential component of the California Coastal Act. LCPs implement the statewide goals and policies of the Coastal Act at the local level. LCPs are required by the Coastal Act for each coastal jurisdiction, and are the basic planning and regulatory tool that guides development in the coastal zone in conformity with Coastal Act goals and policies. LCPs must specify the kind, location, and intensity of land uses, the applicable resource protection and development policies, and implementing ordinances. LCPs are prepared primarily by local governments, and, once certified, govern most coastal permit decisions that can affect the short- and long-term conservation and use of coastal resources. Following adoption by the local planning authority, a LCP is submitted to the Coastal Commission which reviews and certifies as consistent with State law. The Coastal Act also includes requirements related to other authorized plans, such as Port Master Plans, Public Works Plans and University Long Range Development Plans which may involve entities other than the local government.

Goal 4 of the Commission’s adopted Strategic Plan is to strengthen the LCP Program. One important way to do this is to complete the certification of LCPs. While most of the coast (approximately 85% of the geographic area) is governed by a certified LCP, there are some remaining uncertified areas. When these areas become certified, the local government would assume responsibility for issuing most coastal development permits in these areas.

In addition to the areas that are not yet certified, many of the LCPs that were certified in the 1980s and 1990s are out of date and would benefit from updates to reflect changed conditions, new information and knowledge, and new programs and policies, especially those related to climate change and sea-level rise. Updated LCPs provide more certainty for economic development and enable stronger coastal resource protection in light of current environmental conditions and other factors. Also, many important public access, coastal resource protection,

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and priority coastal development issues remain to be more comprehensively addressed by an updated LCP in these areas, as contemplated by the Coastal Act.

**Sea-Level Rise Impacts Pose Significant Threats to Coastal Communities**

There is consensus that the California coast will experience significant impacts from the combined effect of sea-level rise, extreme high tides, storms, and coastal erosion in the future. These impacts will play out differently in each region of the coast depending on the shoreline structure, development pattern and many other variables. Understanding, planning for, and preparing for these impacts must be done at the local, regional, and statewide scale. The purpose of these grants is to support this work at the local and regional scale, particularly through local coastal planning pursuant to the Coastal Act.

The 2012 National Research Council (NRC) report “Sea-level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington: Past, Present, and Future” (NRC Report), confirms that California has already experienced sea-level rise and is likely to experience significant increases in sea-level over the next century. The NRC Report also concludes that over the next several decades the most significant impacts will come from the combined effects of sea-level rise and extreme weather events (coastal storms and surges), particularly during El Niño storm cycles and high tides. El Niño events of 1982 and 1997 caused temporary increases in sea-level that combined with storm surges, resulted in significant coastal flooding and erosion. Impacts from these kinds of events will likely be amplified as sea-level rises. The NRC Report concludes that sea-level change has enormous implications for coastal planning, land use, and development along the California coast. A 2009 Pacific Institute study, funded in part by the OPC, estimated that without any proactive planning the economic impacts of sea-level rise by 2100 could exceed $100 billion.

**Financial Assistance is needed to Assist Local Planning Efforts**

While a few communities have begun to update LCPs to address sea-level rise, there is a need for assistance to help complete this work. USC Sea Grant conducted a Coastal California Adaptation Needs Assessment in 2011 which found that local communities understand the need to start planning for climate change impacts but lacked the financial resources to complete this work. These grants directly address that need. A December 2012 Local Government workshop held by the Coastal Commission highlighted the need for additional local and technical assistance and Coastal Commission staff resources to assist with the updating of existing LCPs.

However, with limited available funds available, the Commission and Ocean Protection Council will prioritize projects that best meet the grant criteria and that demonstrate efficient and effective use of grant funds. The proposals for these LCP grant funds will require a complete work program, benchmarks and a schedule for completion of the LCP planning work.
June 20, 2014

Hilary Papendick, Statewide LCP Grant Coordinator
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: City of Del Mar LCP Planning/Sea Level Rise Grant Program Application

Dear Ms. Papendick,

On behalf of the San Dieguito River Park JPA, I am pleased to offer support of the City of Del Mar’s grant application to the California Coastal Commission and California Ocean Protection Council for LCP and Sea-level Rise Planning. Several areas of the City are subject to effects of sea-level rise including the San Dieguito Lagoon and bordering tidelands, North Beach and the public beach from 29th Street to Powerhouse Park, and the 1.5 mile coastal bluff and public beach stretching south to the City limit. Many of these areas are in the San Dieguito River Park’s Focused Planning Area. If awarded, we support the City’s use of grant funds to update its certified Local Coastal Program with sea-level rise provisions to protect and enhance these sensitive coastal resources.

I urge the Coastal Commission and Ocean Protection Council to award a grant to the City of Del Mar for this project.

Sincerely,

County Supervisor Dave Roberts
Chair, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: City of San Diego Membership Assessment & Ongoing Participation in JPA

RECOMMENDATION:
Discuss and Provide Direction.

SUMMARY:

Mayor Faulconer’s Letter/City of San Diego Participation. At your Board’s last meeting on May 16, you discussed the points in Mayor Faulconer’s letter one by one (Attachment 1). The primary outcome was an appointment of a committee of the JPA Board (Chair Roberts, Vice-Chair Mosier, Board member Lightner and Board member Kersey) to meet with a representative of the San Diego Mayor, and with the City Attorney, along with JPA staff and attorney. The committee was tasked with identifying ways to address the points in the letter with the goal of amending the revised JPA agreement to the satisfaction of the City of San Diego. There have been no meetings yet, for the reason given in the paragraph below.

Subsequent to your last meeting, the Mayor’s May Revise was released and it did include one year’s funding for the JPA ($254,100), which was adopted by the City of San Diego on June 9th. However, JPA staff was informed that the City is only willing to enter into an extension of the JPA agreement for six months. See Attachment 2. As written, this agreement would have to be re-circulated again to all of the JPA’s member agencies. JPA staff was also informed that discussions regarding potential revisions to the agreement would occur only after the City’s six-month participation agreement was signed.

Weighted/Non-Weighted Vote. At the June 6, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee, the CAC discussed the points in the Mayor’s letter, as requested by CAC Chair Golich. Most of the points require additional information before the CAC can provide meaningful input. However, the CAC discussed the Weighted/Non-Weighted Voting issue at length. The CAC voted unanimously to oppose a weighted vote because they felt it was unfair to smaller jurisdictions and, by disenfranchising the CAC chair, failed to recognize the contributions of volunteers.

Response to Board Member Letters. On the day of your last meeting, Board member Lightner released a letter documenting that she had not participated in any discussions regarding correspondence or positions taken on the St. John’s Garabed Church project. This relates to the sixth bullet in the Mayor’s letter regarding public positions and outreach on behalf of the JPA. Your Board took two actions to address this matter at your May 16th
meeting. First, when letters are sent out from the JPA that are not the result of a JPA Board approved action, the letterhead used will not have JPA Board member names on it. Second, when a letter is sent out that is the result of a JPA Board approved action, the vote of each of the Board members will be included in the letter, specifying if they voted yes, no, or abstained. Because Chair Roberts has indicated that all letters written by JPA Board members regarding the JPA should be responded to, a draft response to Board member Lightner’s letter is attached for your Board’s review and approval (Attachment 3).

CAC RECOMMENDATION

The CAC considered the Mayor’s letter on June 6, 2014, and recommended unanimously to oppose a weighted vote for the JPA Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

Attachments:

1. Mayor Faulconer’s letter of May 2, 2014
2. City of San Diego’s proposed six-month extension agreement.
May 2, 2014

The Hon. Dave Roberts
Supervisor, District 3
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority

Dear Supervisor Roberts:

As a result of discussions during the April 17, 2014, meeting, I have directed City of San Diego (City) staff to include funding of $254,000 in the City’s Proposed FY 2015 Budget through the May Revision process to extend the current 1989 Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement (Agreement) for up to one year beginning July 1, 2014. The proposed allocation will be considered by San Diego City Council as part of the adoption of the May Revise.

San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park (Park) is a valuable recreational asset to the San Diego region. It is important that the City and its partners provide visitors a quality, accessible experience while maintaining precious resources. At the end of any long-term agreement, it is prudent for the City to evaluate effectiveness and deliverables prior to engaging in another long-term contract that financially commits the City well into the future. It is in our collective best interest to ensure the proposed term makes sense for taxpayers in all jurisdictions participating in the JPA.

Over the course of the year, the City’s objective is to work cooperatively with the JPA to alleviate the following concerns within the draft Agreement:

- Non-Weighted Voting: Two of the nine JPA members are represented by the City, comprising approximately 22% of the vote. The City requests a weighted vote to reflect the City’s percentage financial contribution (31%) in the proposed agreement. Alternatively, the City’s proposed contribution could reflect the percentage of park users rather than total land and citywide population.

- The Agreement needs to include adequate language that does not compromise the City’s right to retain full management authority of its land within the Focused Planning Area.
• City permits must be obtained when events and development occur on City land.

• An expiration date must be included in the Agreement as it is important to reserve the right of future Board members and the City to consider and evaluate the necessity and cost effectiveness of the JPA.

• Service levels for all maintenance functions associated with resource management, watershed and public recreational areas are not defined and there is no enforcement mechanism for failure to provide sufficient services. Based upon a recent site visit by City staff, concerns about the current level of maintenance on publically accessible trails must be addressed.

• Public positions and outreach on behalf of the JPA must be approved by the Board. Such action compromises the ability of Councilmembers to act on items under consideration within their own cities and potentially incorrectly represents opinions of the Board.

• All JPA financial documents requested for review by the Board must be provided as the Board holds a fiduciary responsibility to make sound, responsible decisions on behalf of the taxpayers. There has been a reluctance to provide such documents in the past.

• Review and approval of the management structure of the JPA staff must fall under the purview of the JPA Board.

• Legal and Board review is necessary to evaluate potential conflicts and liability prior to initiation of litigation by the JPA.

The City is proud of its expansive and accessible recreational amenities, including one of the largest municipal park systems in the nation boasting more than 41,000 acres of open and developed parkland and regional parks. Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park are maintained and operated for all San Diego County residents and visitors without annual financial assistance of any other local municipalities. The City also enjoys successful partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions at Mission Trails Regional Park and Otay Valley Regional Park. We understand the value and importance of these assets to all users, including those residing outside the City. However, we have a duty and responsibility to City taxpayers to evaluate long-term proposals that dedicate City revenues for regional benefits.
The Hon. Dave Roberts  
May 2, 2014  
Page Three

The City looks forward to working with you and the JPA Board to determine the best outcome for participating jurisdictions. It is my hope to embark on a new era of cooperation and confidence in the management of the Park, ultimately for the enjoyment all San Diegans.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kevin L. Faulconer  
Mayor

cc:   Honorable City Councilmembers  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Scott Chadwick, Chief Operating Officer  
Stacey LoMedico, Assistant Chief Operating Officer  
Jaymie Bradford, Deputy Chief of Staff/Chief of Policy, Office of the Mayor  
John Ly, Director of Outreach, Office of the Mayor  
Erin Demorest, Chief of Staff, Council District 1  
Tiffany Vinson, Policy Advisor, Council District 5
AMENDMENT TO EXTEND CITY OF SAN DIEGO MEMBERSHIP IN THE 
JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE 
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE CITIES OF DEL MAR, ESCONDIDO, POWAY, 
SAN DIEGO, AND SOLANA BEACH CREATING THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER 
VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

This Amendment is to extend the City of San Diego’s membership in the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, a political subdivision of the State of California, and the cities of DEL MAR, ESCONDIDO, POWAY, SAN DIEGO, and SOLANA BEACH, municipal corporations (which shall individually or collectively be referred to as “Public Agencies”), dated June 12, 1989 (“JPA Agreement”), pursuant to Section 2 of the JPA Agreement and the following terms and conditions:

1. **TERM:** This Amendment to extend City of San Diego’s membership in the JPA Agreement shall take effect on June 13, 2014 and last through December 31, 2014, unless otherwise extended in writing. If the City does not extend the term of this Amendment in writing, its membership in the JPA shall automatically terminate after December 31, 2014. This Amendment is for the purpose of continuing with the City’s membership in the June 12, 1989 JPA Agreement while the Public Agencies negotiate in good faith toward a new long term JPA Agreement.

2. **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:**
   
a. This extension may be signed in one or more counterparts.
b. All other terms and conditions of the JPA Agreement remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed this Agreement.

CITY OF DEL MAR

By: _____________________________ Dated ____________________________
City Manager

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

By: _____________________________ Dated ____________________________
City Manager

CITY OF POWAY

By: _____________________________ Dated ____________________________
City Manager
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

By: ____________________________ Dated ____________________________

_____________________________
_____________________________

Approved as to form and legality:

_____________________________ Dated ____________________________

Deputy City Attorney
City of San Diego

CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

By: ____________________________ Dated ____________________________

City Manager

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

By: ____________________________ Dated ____________________________

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Dear President Pro Tem Lightner,

Thank you for providing the JPA with your May 15, 2014 memo to Robert Vacchi, Director of Development Services regarding JPA comments on the St. Garabed Church proposal. I am responding on behalf of the JPA Board.

I know you had to leave our May 15, 2014 meeting early due to city business. However the JPA Board discussed your concerns in depth. As a result, direction was given to JPA staff to follow the standard practice of the JPA for commenting on development proposals that may affect the San Dieguito River Park either adversely or positively.

In fact, your concern about potential misunderstandings about your participation in discussions or final determinations related to comments on development proposals was fully understood by the Board.

Additionally, as a result of your excellent comments, staff was directed to provide all future staff comments on letterhead that does not include Board member names. Staff was also instructed – directly due to your comments - to include specific votes of individual Board members on all comment letters directed by Board action.

I hope this revision to our standard procedures responds to your immediate concerns and will help us move forward to craft a new JPA Agreement that will meet the approval of all member agencies.

Sincerely,

DAVE ROBERTS
Third District County Supervisor
Chairman, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
Honorable Councilmember Mark Kersey
Cathy Winterrowd, Deputy Director, DSD
Jeffrey Szymanski, Environmental Planner, DSD
Connie Neuffer, City Attorney’s Office
TO: JPA Board  
FROM: Staff  
SUBJECT: Review of JPA Agenda Items by CAC

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct Staff to take all agenda items to CAC for review unless there are urgent timing constraints.

SITUATION:

At the April 18 JPA meeting Board member Lightner questioned if all appropriate items were being reviewed by the CAC. The CAC Bylaws (II A.) note that “The primary purpose of the CAC shall be to advise the Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority in matters relating to the planning, funding, property acquisition, design, improvement, operation and management of the San Dieguito River Park”. Section II B.4. adds “Additionally, the purpose of the CAC shall be to advise the JPA on land use matters within or which directly impact the focused planning area”.

A review of action items on the JPA agenda over the past year (Attachment 1) shows that all land use matters have received CAC review but others that could be interpreted to be included under section II A of the Bylaws have not. There are various reasons why some items have not been referred to the CAC. For example, when the Board assigns an item to a Board Committee for review and recommendation it has been standard practice to not also assign the item to the CAC. The annual Budget is an example. Other exceptions have been made when timeliness of an action is important. An example is the recent response of the Board to the letter from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians sent to the Mayor of the City of San Diego, which accused the San Dieguito River Park of not doing its job to protect the Piedras Pintadas pictographs. Since the letter was received several days before the Board agenda went out there was no time to schedule CAC review and still provide a timely response to correct misperceptions of the letter. Other items that traditionally have not been brought to the CAC are procedural actions such as accepting easements and granting contracts for projects that have been previously reviewed by the CAC.

CAC RECOMMENDATION:

The CAC reviewed this item at their June 6, 2014 meeting. With a unanimous vote their recommendation was to bring all items to the CAC with administrative items placed on a consent agenda. An exception for items with urgent timing constraints was also recommended.
ALTERNATIVES:

1. Direct staff to bring all items to the CAC for review and recommendation unless there are urgent time constraints.
2. Direct staff to bring all items to the CAC with defined exceptions such as budget or administrative items.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct Staff to take all agenda items to CAC for review unless there are urgent timing constraints.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

Attachment:

1. JPA Action Item Review by CAC
## JPA Action Item Review by CAC

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<th>Agenda Action Item Title</th>
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<td>Budget Committee Report and Recommendation</td>
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<td>Final MND for Via De La Valle Widening and Proposed Letter of Support</td>
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<td>SANDAG W19 Lagoon Wetland Restoration Project and consideration of CEQA Processing</td>
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<td>Budget Committee Report and Recommendation</td>
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<td>Proposed Lagoon Boardwalk Removal</td>
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<td>Proposal for Memorial for Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz</td>
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<td>City of San Diego Issues – Revised JPA Agreement</td>
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<td>Appoint Nominating Committee for Board Officers</td>
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<td>DAA CDP Application to Coastal Commission</td>
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<td>Purchase of Old Santa Ysabel Barn and Agreement With Save Our Heritage Organization</td>
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<td>Award Contract for Architectural Services – Lagoon Ranger building</td>
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<td>New Stormwater Permit Presentation</td>
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<td>Award Contract for Electrical Connection for Lake Hodges Bridge</td>
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<td>Adopt Resolution Requesting City of San Diego To Design and Construct Trail Cantilever along El Camino</td>
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<td>Report from Sikes Adobe Bee Committee</td>
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TO: JPA
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to file a permit application with the California Coastal Commission to remove Condition #6d from Coastal Development Permit #6-04-88.

SITUATION:

At your April 18th meeting, your Board approved sending a letter to the Coastal Commission opposing the removal or relocation of the Boardwalk (Attachment 1). Subsequently, Coastal Commission staff responded with a letter on May 23, 2014 (Attachment 2). The letter states that the Coastal Commission staff has the authority to require removal of the Boardwalk based on their February 13, 2014 staff report when the restoration plan for the South Overflow Lot (SOL) was approved by the Commission. However, the letter added that retention of the Boardwalk would be considered by the Coastal Commission upon submittal of an application from the JPA to amend the existing coastal development permit for the Coast to Crest Trail.

Although River Park staff does not agree with the Coastal Commission staff position that they have the authority to order removal of the Boardwalk without further consideration of the Coastal Commission, it is a complicated issue. Since the intent is to obtain a determination from the Coastal Commission after discussion and public input, staff recommends that your Board authorize staff to apply to have the permit condition regarding the temporary status of the Boardwalk removed from the permit. This is the text of permit condition #6d that the JPA would apply to remove: “The boardwalk (Segment 1b) is an interim use in the approved alignment within non-vegetated wetlands in the South Overflow Lot until such time as the South Overflow Lot is restored to functional wetland habitat. The location of the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time.”

Attachment 3 is a letter signed by multiple parties including the 22nd DAA, opposing removal/relocation of the Boardwalk.

Attachment 4 is a letter that was sent by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy that explains the difference between the future Coast to Crest Trail that was approved along the north side of the SOL and the existing pedestrian only Boardwalk, and challenges the claim in the CCC letter that CCC staff has the authority to require the removal of the Boardwalk.
CAC RECOMMENDATION:

At their June 6th meeting, the CAC voted unanimously to support an application to remove Condition #6d.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carter, Deputy Director

Attachments:

1. April 18, 2014 letter from JPA Board to California Coastal Commission
2. May 23, 2014 letter from California Coastal Commission to JPA
3. Joint Signature Letter (22nd DAA, SDRVC, City of Del Mar, City of Solana Beach, JPA) opposing removal of the boardwalk.
4. Letter from SDRVC to CCC, June 11, 2014
San Dieguito River Park
Joint Powers Authority
18372 Sycamore Creek Road
Escondido, CA 92025
(858) 674-2270  Fax (858) 674-2280
www.sdrp.org

April 18, 2014

Honorable Steve Kinsey, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Chairman Kinsey and Commissioners:

SUBJECT: San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk Trail

The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority has been informed that Coastal Commission staff has directed the 22nd District Agricultural Association to produce restoration plans for the South Overflow Lot that would remove the existing Lagoon Boardwalk Trail. At their meeting of April 18, 2014, the Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority considered this item and voted unanimously to oppose removing the Boardwalk for the reasons stated in this letter and Attachment 1.

Our Board is concerned that Coastal Commission staff is attempting to move forward on a major change to an existing facility without public input or the Commission’s opportunity to address it. Removing the Boardwalk would be a significant change and loss to the community and should not be required without a full discussion at the Commission level, with the opportunity for public input. Our Board believes that the Boardwalk serves an important purpose consistent with the Coastal Act, which is nature study and environmental education, and therefore should not be removed. Accordingly, our Board requests that the condition in the existing permit for our trail that states, “The boardwalk is an interim use…which shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot (SOL) and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time,” be removed from our permit so that the existence of the boardwalk does not remain in peril or continued uncertainty.

Background

The San Dieguito River Park JPA strongly supports restoration of the SOL and other wetlands, having recently argued vigorously in favor of restoring the lower part of the East Overflow Lot instead of continuing to allow it to be used for parking. Over the 25 years of its life, the San Dieguito River Park JPA has spent millions of dollars purchasing coastal property and working with partners such as Southern California Edison and SANDAG to restore these disturbed lands to critical tidal wetlands. In fact, the very first land purchase that the JPA ever made
was the acquisition of the former Bircher/Del Mar 88 property in 1991 which now forms the deep lagoon basin known as W1 on the west side of the freeway. The priority for wetland preservation was instigated initially and has continued as a result of public activism by Del Mar’s San Dieguito Lagoon Committee, the Friends of San Dieguito River Valley and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. Those organizations join the JPA in opposing the removal of the boardwalk. Please see Attachment 2, letters to the Coastal Commission from the Cities of Del Mar, Solana Beach and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.

Notwithstanding the JPA’s long-term commitment to enhancing coastal wetlands, the JPA also has goals to promote public access, environmental education, and nature study to further a greater understanding of natural resources and the value of coastal wetlands among children and adults visiting the lagoon. We understand that the Coastal Commission biologist believes that the introduction of human activity into a habitat area has negative impacts on birds, and that the .25 acre space that the boardwalk takes up could be converted to additional wetlands. However, we believe that these concerns are offset by a compensating factor - that the boardwalk serves a valuable function for nature study. It should be noted that the boardwalk was designed to minimize habitat impact – it is off the ground but has a very low profile specifically to keep walkers at a low level so as not to disturb birds by being “above them”. There is also evidence that retaining the boardwalk could be beneficial to birds that use the wetlands as it gives them a place to hide from predators such as harriers and Coopers hawks (Attachment 3).

The boardwalk serves a purpose which is one of only 8 allowed uses in wetlands, and that is nature study. Its location adjacent to the river on one side and restored wetlands on the other makes it ideal for this purpose. The newly-approved trail along Jimmy Durante Blvd. next to the bus ramp serves a purpose for a multi-use trail connection and Coast to Crest Trail link, but it is not a replacement for the nature study and quiet reflection that the boardwalk provides.

The boardwalk has been in use for eight years and is a well-loved community asset, built with a considerable investment of state and federal grant funds and private donations of cash and labor. At the time that the boardwalk was approved, it was known that it was located adjacent to the river and wetlands, and its sensitive design reflects that. Removing or relocating it entirely is an extreme step that is not warranted. There are other actions that the JPA is willing to discuss that could be taken to reduce human activity short of the extreme step of removing the boardwalk. For example, if a short section of the center part of the boardwalk were removed, then the boardwalk would no longer function as a trail connecting point A to point B. That would eliminate use by a certain number of people who are not accessing the trail for nature study. It would also reduce the number of people who use the boardwalk to walk their dogs.

Please give consideration to the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority’s request to retain the boardwalk in its current location for all the reasons described herein and to remove the condition stating that the boardwalk is an interim use that could be relocated at some point in the future.
Honorable Steve Kinsey  
April 18, 2014  
Page 3  

Sincerely,  

Dave Roberts  

Dave Roberts, Chair  

cc:  
Charles Lester, Executive Director  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219  

Sherilyn Sarb, Deputy Director,  
San Diego Coast District Office  
7575 Metropolitan Dr., Suite 103  
San Diego, CA 92108-4402  

Attachments:  
1) Boardwalk Fact Sheet  
2) Letters from City of Del Mar, Solana Beach and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.  
3) Letter from Phil Pryde, Ph.D. regarding benefits of boardwalks for birds.
FACT SHEET
POTENTIAL REMOVAL OR RELOCATION OF
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BOARDWALK TRAIL

- The 1,200 foot-long Boardwalk Trail, built in 2006, is located on the southern edge of the Fairgrounds South Lot parking area and is for pedestrian use. A viewing platform, scope, and educational interpretive signs provide opportunities for nature study.
- The boardwalk was financed with funds from the State Coastal Conservancy and Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities program, and partially built by volunteers including the Del Mar Rotary who installed all the boardwalk planks.
- Ongoing maintenance is provided through donations made by selling name plates on the boardwalk planks. Approximately 545 name plates have been installed along the edge of the boardwalk.
- The Fairgrounds south lot is currently being converted to a new wetland by the 22nd Agricultural District – Phase I started in February 2014 restoring 3 acres of the parking lot to wetland habitat. Phase II (the remaining parking area) is required by a California Coastal Commission (CCC) order and is anticipated to be done in 2015. The District’s plan for the South Overflow Lot restoration that was approved by the Coastal Commission at the February 13, 2014 hearing did not require that the boardwalk trail be removed or relocated.
- As required by the CCC, the 22nd DAA staff prepared a detailed restoration plan for the Phase II restoration, but is now being told to prepare a new plan without the boardwalk trail and that the boardwalk trail will be removed.
- The original coastal permit for the boardwalk trail (2005) required a note be placed on the project plans that “the boardwalk...is an interim use...that shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time”.
- A coastal permit for the SOL restoration was approved by the Coastal Commission on February 13, 2014. The opportunity for the Coastal Commission to “address” the boardwalk, as described in the permit condition quoted above, was at this hearing. The permit does not require the boardwalk trail be removed or relocated. No public process occurred that would give the public (or the JPA) a chance to weigh in on the boardwalk’s existence or replacement. Nor has a case been made that removal is necessary.
- The boardwalk serves Coastal Act goals, and San Dieguito River Park goals, to promote public access, environmental education, and nature study to further a greater understanding of natural resources and the value of coastal wetlands among children and adults visiting the lagoon. The boardwalk serves a valuable function for nature study, which is one of only eight allowed uses in wetlands. This benefit compensates for any potential gain in acreage (about 1/4 acre) of wetlands that would result if the boardwalk were removed. Its location adjacent to the river on one side and restored wetlands on the other makes it ideal for this purpose. The boardwalk was designed to minimize habitat impact – it is off the ground but has a very low profile specifically to keep walkers at a low level so as not to disturb birds by being above them. Other trails are not a replacement for the nature study and quiet reflection that the boardwalk provides.
March 19, 2014

Honorable Steve Kinsey, Chair
California Coastal Commission
C/O San Diego Coast District Office
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108-4402

Re: Opposition to Removal of the Boardwalk Trail on the South Side of the San Diego County Fairgrounds South Overflow Lot

Dear Chairman Kinsey and Commissioners:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Del Mar, I am writing to express the City’s opposition to the California Coastal Commission staff’s direction to remove the Boardwalk Trail on the south side of the San Diego County Fairgrounds (22nd District Agricultural Association) South Overflow Lot.

As you are aware, the Fairground’s South Overflow Lot Restoration Project is currently underway. The City recently learned that Coastal Commission staff has indicated that they may require removal of the existing Boardwalk Trail in the Lot. The Boardwalk, as a vital public resource, remains a key component to the restoration project. It should be noted that the Coastal Commission approved the Restoration Project with the boardwalk in the Project.

This proposed action by Coastal Commission staff is a significant change that has not received any public input and is clearly contradictory to what has been in place and what the public has been utilizing. Therefore, the City is opposed to removal of the Boardwalk Trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Haydu
Mayor

cc: City Council
    Frederick Schenk, President, 22nd District Agricultural Association Board of Directors
April 9, 2014

Honorable Steve Kinsey, Chair
California Coastal Commission
c/o San Diego Coast District Office
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108-4402

Dear Chairman Kinsey and Commissioners:

The City of Solana Beach is writing to express our opposition to the California Coastal Commission staff’s direction to remove the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk Trail as part of the 22nd Agricultural District Phase II Restoration Project at the Fairgrounds.

The Boardwalk is a vital public resource and a significant element in the approved restoration project. The Fairgrounds prepared a detailed restoration plan for Phase II that included the Boardwalk Trail. This plan was approved by the Coastal Commission in February of this year. This Trail was built in 2006 with public funds and is further maintained through private donations and volunteer efforts. It is a cherished public asset that provides educational and recreational access to the coastal wetlands to all of the County residents and visitors.

We encourage the Restoration Project to proceed as already approved and oppose this new direction being requested by Coastal Commission Staff. There has been no public input with respect to this change and we believe that all objectives of the Restoration can be met with the Boardwalk remaining in place as per the existing permit and plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Thomas Campbell
Mayor

Lesa Heebner
Deputy Mayor

David Zito
Council Member

Peter Zahn
Council Member

Mike Nichols
Council Member
March 20, 2014

Mr. Charles Lester
Executive Director
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Mr. Lester:

On behalf of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (Conservancy), I am sending you this letter to oppose the removal of the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk Trail from the 22nd Agricultural District (Fairgrounds) Phase II Restoration Project.

The Boardwalk Trail was built in 2006 with funds awarded by the State Coastal Conservancy and Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities Program. It was partially built by volunteers. Ongoing maintenance is provided through donations made by selling name plates on the Boardwalk planks. Approximately 545 names plates have been purchased and installed to date. The Boardwalk Trail is a valuable community asset that provides educational and recreational access to the coastal wetlands for persons of all ages and physical abilities and, in our view, it would be highly inappropriate for it to be removed.

The Fairgrounds prepared a detailed restoration plan for its Phase II Restoration Project that included the Boardwalk Trail. This plan was approved by the Coastal Commission on February 13, 2014. It has come to our attention that your staff now is requiring the Fairgrounds submit a NEW restoration plan that requires removal of the Boardwalk Trail in direct conflict with the approved plan.

We oppose this direction being taken by Coastal Commission staff. The permit and plan approved by the Coastal Commission on February 13, 2014, does not require removal of the Boardwalk. No public process has occurred that would give the public a chance to weigh in on the removal of the Boardwalk.

We highly encourage the Coastal Commission staff to comply with the requirements of the permit for the Fairground’s restoration plan as approved by the Coastal Commission on February 13, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Boaz, Executive Director at 858-755-8956 or trish@sdrcvc.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter M. Shapiro
President

ATTACHMENT 2
To whom it may concern,

With regard to the proposed removal of the existing boardwalk in the South Overflow Lot area of the San Dieguito Estuary wetlands, I would like to offer the following personal observations and comments.

Over the past twelve years I have led birding trips for San Diego Audubon Society to locations all over North America, and taken professionally led trips to dozens of other major birding venues. Most of these have wetlands, and many of them have boardwalks. From this, I have gained considerable experience observing bird behavior in the vicinity of such boardwalks, many of which are heavily used.

The biologist for the California Coastal Commission has been quoted as having said, “Putting human activity in the middle of a natural habitat is always a bad idea because it maximizes disturbance to the habitat. Wildlife, particularly birds, are especially sensitive to activity that is above them ...”.

Unfortunately, this statement is an overly-broad generalization, and is not necessarily correct in the context of water birds. Birds, like all other animate life, are first and foremost concerned with self-preservation. In that regard, they quickly learn what does and does not constitute a threat to them, and water birds soon conclude that human beings walking nearby, or on a boardwalk above them, present little or no threat, and simply go on about their other main concerns, feeding and propagation. They are of course sensitive to threats above them, such as raptor activity, but not necessarily at all to people.

Indeed, since aerial predators are a major threat to smaller water birds, such birds quickly identify a boardwalk as a good place under which they can hide and conceal themselves from aerial attack. Thus, far from “maximizing disturbance to the habitat of marsh birds”, properly constructed boardwalks can provide a useful protective service to wetland birds. —“Properly constructed” means, among other things, that there is suitable vegetation nearby that can also serve as shelter for the birds.

Some of the best-known and frequently visited protected wetlands in the United States are those that have been developed near the Convention Center on South Padre Island, Texas, at the Green Cay and Wakodahatchee reclamation ponds near Delray Beach, Florida, and at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory along Lake Erie in Ohio. Bird preservation and reproduction are the primary objectives at all these sites. And at all these sites, almost all of the trails are built on berms or boardwalks that extend through the wetlands, and at two of them, are exclusively on boardwalks.

I have visited these sites on numerous occasions, and have seen, for example Clapper Rails and other wetland birds saunter beside and under the boardwalks quite unconcerned about the visitors above. At the Florida sites, small trees that are prolific nesting sites for herons and anhingas are only a few feet from boardwalks where people are enthusiastically photographing them. Again, this occurs because the birds understand from experience that the nearby human movements and activities pose no danger to them.
Locally, in a similar vein, I have had Clapper Rails in the Tijuana Estuary wetlands along the McCoy trail (built on a berm) stroll within a few feet of me as I observed them from the trail, again unconcerned by my presence.

Thus, the statement quoted above should be viewed as not necessarily applicable to wetland areas where trails and boardwalks have been built in a proper manner in appropriate locations. Experience at sites across the country demonstrates that water birds don’t automatically react negatively to human presence at properly designed wetland boardwalks and berm trails, and may find the boardwalks useful as hiding places.

In conclusion, based on actual wetland avifauna behavior, there is no justification for removing the existing boardwalk in the San Dieguito wetlands area, an action which would in the future deprive the wetland birds of this useful form of shelter and protection.

Therefore, the recommendation to remove the boardwalk should be rejected.

As for the concern about dogs, there is no reason why the wetland trails and boardwalks can’t be made off-limits to dogs (and they should be).

Sincerely,

Philip R. Pryde (Ph.D.)
Professor Emeritus, San Diego State University
Past Chair, San Diego Audubon Society
Past Chair, San Diego County Planning Commission

Common Gallinule by the South Padre Island boardwalk
May 23, 2014

Tim Fennell
22nd District Agricultural Association
2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard
Del Mar, CA 92014

Dick Bobertz
Executive Director
San Dieguito River Park JPA
18372 Sycamore Creek Road
Escondido, CA 92025

David Kaye
Manager of Environmental Projects
Southern California Edison
1218 S. Fifth Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016

Re: Coastal Development Permit No. 6-04-088/Coast to Crest Trail – interim boardwalk trail segment

Dear Mr. Fennell, Mr. Bobertz, and Mr. Kaye:

Commission staff is currently working with the applicant, 22nd District Agricultural Association (22nd DAA), to finalize wetland restoration plans for Phase II of the SOL wetland restoration, pursuant to Commission-approved Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 6-12-067. As you are all aware, the South Overflow Lot (SOL) is undergoing phased restoration work. As part of that restoration, the elevated boardwalk segment of the San Dieguito River Valley Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Coast to Crest Trail that currently traverses the SOL within the property of the 22nd DAA has become the subject of recent attention. Specifically, Commission staff has directed the 22nd DAA to provide restoration plans that would include the relocation of the existing interim boardwalk segment to an alternate alignment along the northern boundary of the SOL restoration area. This alignment has been identified multiple times in various exhibits submitted by the 22nd DAA in past Commission actions dealing with the SOL over the span of multiple years.

ATTACHMENT 2
May 23, 2014
Page 2

The Commission has communicated to the 22nd DAA that such realignment will enhance the restoration program by allowing approximately 0.25 acre of additional wetland restoration, while also improving the hydrological connectivity between the restoration area and the adjacent San Dieguito River. The boardwalk segment of the Coast to Crest Trail would still exist adjacent to the SOL restoration area, but in a location that would be less impactful on coastal resources and still provide enhanced public access to and nature study of adjacent coastal resources within the lagoon system.

In response to this direction from Commission staff to the 22nd DAA, various parties have interceded to voice opposition to any realignment of the boardwalk trail segment. However, this opposition ignores the long and publicly available permit history of this particular area, which has identified and treated the boardwalk segment of the Coast to Crest Trail as an interim use with the final alignment being subject to the final plan for SOL wetland restoration.

Permit History

At the October 2005 Commission hearing, the Coastal Commission approved CDP No. 6-04-088, authorizing the applicants Southern California Edison (“SCE”) and the JPA to implement the San Dieguito Wetland Restoration Plan and construction of a portion of the Coast to Crest Trail. Special Condition No. 6 of CDP No. 6-04-088 directly addresses Segments 1 through 8 of the Coast to Crest Trail constructed pursuant to that permit, including the boardwalk segment (1b) in question. Special Condition No. 6 states, in relevant part:

6. Final Coast to Crest Trail Plans. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRAILS AND WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF COMMISSION ACTION ON THE PERMIT, the applicants shall submit final plans for construction of the coastal segment of the Coast to Crest Trail commencing at Jimmy Durante Blvd. and ending at the proposed weir or inland extent of the restoration work. Said plans shall be in substantial conformance with the trail alignment shown in the Wetland Delineation for the Proposed San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail San Diego, CA prepared by Tierra Environmental Services, Inc. and revised July 14, 2005, and City of Del Mar Sheets 36-46 dated 6/17/05 and City of San Diego Sheets 73-89 dated 5/26/05, and shall include the following revisions. Upon written approval by the Executive Director of trail plans for segments 1 through 8, the JPA may commence construction of segments 1 through 3 in accordance with the approved plans and written authorization by the Executive Director.

a. The trail segment including the boardwalk (segment 1a-1b) shall be designated pedestrian only.

[...]
d. A note indicating the following: The boardwalk (segment 1b) is an interim use in the approved alignment within non-vegetated wetlands in the South Overflow Lot until such time as the South Overflow Lot is restored to functional wetland habitat. The location of the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time. [emphasis added]

At the November 2012 Commission hearing, the Coastal Commission approved Phase I of the South Overflow Lot restoration in CDP No. 6-12-040. Special Condition No. 9 of that CDP states, in relevant part:

9. Compatibility with South Overflow Lot (SOL) Phase II Restoration. Changes to the SOL Phase I Restoration may be required in order to implement the SOL Phase II Restoration including, but not limited to, the following:

[...]

c. Realignment of the existing San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) public access trail within the entire SOL. Realignment, reconstruction, and/or removal of the boardwalk in the future shall be the responsibility of Southern California Edison and the San Dieguito River Regional Open Space Joint Powers Authority. [emphasis added]

The findings for the November 2012 hearing staff report, dated October 25, 2012, and the related addendum dated November 9, 2012, supporting approval of CDP No. 6-12-040, as conditioned, addressed the presence of the Coast to Crest Trail boardwalk segment within the South Overflow Lot. The findings state, in relevant part:

"However, in approving the boardwalk in its current location, it was noted on the plans that '...The location of the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot [SOL] and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time.' Special Condition 6 of CDP 6-04-088 required that the following language be included on the final plans for the boardwalk:

d. A note indicating the following: the boardwalk (Segment 1b) is an interim use in the approved alignment within the non-vegetated wetlands in the South Overflow Lot until such time as the South Overflow Lot is restored to functional wetland habitat. The location of the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal
development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time.

The Commission typically does not endorse public access through mitigation sites. Public access paths are typically placed at the perimeter of restoration projects in order to facilitate maximum wetland habitat restoration and tidal circulation. In addition, a public access path traversing the restored habitat area also has the potential to disturb sensitive wetland species and may increase the amount of refuse that enters the restoration area. In addition, the Consent Orders [Cease and Desist Order CCC-12-CD-02 and Restoration Order CCC-12-RO-02], previously approved by the Commission, require that 22nd DAA construct an extension to the existing public access trail from its terminus at the existing boardwalk through the northern portion of the SOL upon completion of the Phase II SOL restoration. Thus, following restoration of the entire SOL, a new public access trail will be constructed in the SOL, and even if the existing boardwalk is required to be realigned, there will not be an adverse impact to public access. As stated previously, Special Condition No. 9 requires that the applicant submit a written agreement to the Executive Director of the Commission acknowledging that the existing JPA trail within the entire SOL may need to be relocated in coordination with the SOL Phase II restoration. Southern California Edison (SCE) and the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) were the permittees on CDP 6-04-088, which approved the boardwalk trail and required that the permittees acknowledge the boardwalk trail may be relocated at such time that the SOL is restored.

In applying for CDP No. 6-12-040 to implement Phase I of the South Overflow Lot wetland restoration, the applicant – 22nd DAA – submitted exhibits showing both Phase I and Phase II (yet to be applied for at that time) restoration plans that depicted an alternate alignment of the Coast to Crest Trail along the northern perimeter of the South Overflow Lot, the very alignment Commission staff continues to support.

At the November 2013 Commission hearing, the Coastal Commission approved CDP No. 6-12-067, which authorized, among other development, the second and final phase of South Overflow Lot wetland restoration (Phase II). Among the documents that the applicant (22nd DAA) submitted were preliminary grading plans for the proposed restoration work that showed an alternate alignment for the Coast to Crest Trail boardwalk segment. CDP No. 6-12-067 also contained Special Condition No. 4, which required the applicant to submit for Executive Director approval the final restoration plans for the Phase II wetland restoration. It is this final restoration plan to restore the SOL that all of the previous permits, special conditions, and findings pointed to when repeatedly identifying the boardwalk as an interim use with the final permanent location to be determined as part of the final Phase II wetland restoration plan.
The findings in the staff report supporting approval of CDP No. 6-12-067, as conditioned, yet again repeated the clear and explicit reference to the Commission’s past actions with regards to the anticipated total restoration of the South Overflow Lot into wetlands and the realignment of the existing Coast to Crest Trail boardwalk segment:

“However, in previously approving the boardwalk in its current location, it was noted on the approved plans that ‘...[t]he location of the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetland restoration of the South Overflow Lot [SOL] and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time.’ The Commission typically does not endorse public access through restoration sites. Public access paths are typically placed at the perimeter of restoration projects in order to facilitate maximum wetland habitat restoration and tidal circulation. In addition, a public access path traversing the restored habitat area also has the potential to disturb sensitive wetland species and may increase the amount of refuse that enters the restoration area. Special Condition No. 9 of CDP No. 6-12-040 approving SOL Phase I restoration required that the applicant submit a written agreement to the Executive Director of the Commission acknowledging that the existing JPA trail within the entire SOL may need to be relocated in coordination with the SOL Phase II restoration.” [emphasis added]

Because CDP No. 6-12-067 is the permit that addresses the restoration of the SOL Phase II area, the November 2013 hearing, in which the permit was publicly presented and debated, was the appropriate venue for concerns related to the possible realignment of the boardwalk segment to be brought to the Commission for discussion. Although many of the known interested parties were in attendance at the hearing, the realignment of the boardwalk segment in connection with the Phase II SOL restoration plan was not brought to the Commission’s attention as an issue or concern.

Conclusion

In the long, multi-year permit history governing the development and restoration of the SOL and the boardwalk trail segment, the public record clearly identifies the boardwalk segment of the Coast to Crest Trail as an interim use within the SOL while the Coastal Commission and the 22nd DAA work toward a final restoration plan for the SOL area. Retention of the boardwalk segment in its current alignment would not only preclude the maximum restoration of wetlands in a highly sensitive site, it ignores the fact that the realignment would enhance the wetland restoration goals within the San Dieguito Lagoon system that multiple parties have supported over many years, while still allowing for continued public access and connectivity to adjacent trail segments along the wetland edge.

Therefore, Commission staff believes that there is sufficient direction and findings to support relocation of the boardwalk trail segment to the perimeter of the restored wetlands through condition compliance for CDP No. 6-12-067. Should SCE and the JPA
May 23, 2014
Page 6

We wish to amend the coastal development permit for the Coast to Crest Trail (CDP No. 6-04-088) to retain the boardwalk segment as a permanent use in its current location, a permit amendment will be required to be approved by the California Coastal Commission. We appreciate that this determination may result in questions for each of the respective parties and would recommend we meet in the near future to discuss and respond to any identified issues. We will commit our staff resources to resolve this matter in an expeditious fashion and support the completion of the SOL restoration work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deborah Lee
District Manager
California Coastal Commission
San Diego Coast District

Cc: Sherilyn Sarb
    John Dixon
    Supervisor Dave Roberts
    Pam Slater-Price
    Jacqueline Winterer
    Steve Schroeder
    Maggie Brown
    Susan Carter
    Dustin Fuller

(G:\San Diego\Digital Permit Files\0612\12-067\PA Boardwalk letter.doc)
May 29, 2014

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Alex Llerandi
7575 Metropolitan Dr., Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Re: Coastal Development Permit Application No. 6-12-067 JPA Boardwalk Trail

Dear Mr. Llerandi,

We are in receipt of your May 23, 2014 letter regarding Coastal Commission staff’s proposal to remove the existing San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk Trail from the South Overflow Lot (SOL) restoration area, and its recent direction to the 22nd District Agricultural Association (22nd DAA) to revise its restoration plans consistent with this proposal. The 22nd DAA, the Cities of Del Mar and Solana Beach, the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy strenuously object to this proposal and encourage Commission staff to allow the SOL Restoration to move forward with the Boardwalk Trail in its current location.

When the Coastal Commission approved the SOL Restoration Plan as part of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Application No. 6-12-067 on November 13, 2013, it did so with the Boardwalk Trail identified in its existing location. Staff’s direction to remove the Boardwalk from the plans, months after the Commission’s approval of the CDP, would constitute a significant change to the approved CDP, bypassing review by both the Commission and the public. Notably, the Special Conditions approved by the Commission do not support staff’s position regarding removal; to the contrary, Special Condition #4 of CDP No. 6-12-067 requires the 22nd DAA to submit a final restoration plan in substantial conformance with the restoration plan approved by the Commission which, as noted above, identified the Boardwalk Trail in its existing location. A change of the magnitude proposed by staff does not comply with the letter or the spirit of this condition.

The communications the Commission has received thus far on this issue, many by the signatories to this letter, make it abundantly clear that the stakeholders and community members who helped fund, build, and now utilize the Boardwalk wish it to remain in its current location. We strongly encourage Commission staff to re-evaluate its position regarding the Boardwalk Trail.
June 9, 2014

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Deborah Lee
7575 Metropolitan Dr., Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Re: Coastal Development Permit Application No. 6-12-067
Phase II SOL Restoration Plan

Dear Ms. Lee,

We are in receipt of your May 23, 2014 letter regarding Coastal Commission staff’s proposal to remove the existing San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk Trail from the South Overflow Lot (SOL) restoration area, and its recent direction to the 22nd District Agricultural Association (22nd DM) to revise its restoration plans consistent with this proposal. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy strenuously objects to this proposal and encourages Commission staff to allow the SOL Restoration to move forward with the Boardwalk Trail in its current location.

When the Coastal Commission approved the SOL Restoration Plan as part of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Application No. 6-12-067, it did so with the Boardwalk Trail identified in its existing location. Staff’s direction to remove the Boardwalk from the plans, months after the Commission’s approval of the CDP, would constitute a significant change to the approved CDP, bypassing review by both the Commission and the public. Notably, the Special Conditions approved by the Commission do not support staff’s position regarding removal; to the contrary, Special Condition #4 of CDP No. 6-12-067 requires the 22nd DM to submit a final restoration plan in substantial conformance with the restoration plan approved by the Commission which, as noted above, identified the Boardwalk Trail in its existing location. A change of the magnitude proposed by staff does not comply with the letter or the spirit of this condition.

3030 Bunker Hill St. • Suite 309-1 • San Diego, CA 92109 • Ph. (858) 755-6956
Email: sdrc@sdrv.org • www.sdrv.org
The documents prepared by your Coastal Commission staff for the February 2014 meeting do not support the Coastal Commission staff’s action to require removal of the Boardwalk Trail. On the contrary, Coastal Commission staff states in their report the BENEFITS of the Boardwalk Trail to the restoration project as set forth below:

**Item 15: Permit Amendments**

Item 15a: 12-5-13 Original Staff Report (See especially pages 13 and 14). Note that the staff report does DID NOT mention removal/relocation of the boardwalk.

Item 15a: 2–6-14 Addendum (See especially pages 13 and 14). Note that the staff report does DOES NOT mention removal/relocation of the boardwalk.

**Item 16: Revised Findings**

Item 16c: 01-30-14 Original Staff Report (See especially pages 23 and 24).

Item 16d: 01-30-14 Original Staff Report (See especially pages 10 & 11). Note that the findings DO NOT mention removal/relocation of the boardwalk.

Item 16d: 02-06-14 Addendum: Note that the Addendum DOES NOT mention removal/relocation of the boardwalk.

In addition, Figure 4.17 of the Final SCE Restoration Plan (November 2006) clearly depicts the proposed alignment of the Coast to Crest Trail (page 4.81). As you can see, the multi-use Coast to Crest Trail was always planned for north of the wetland restoration area (segment 2). The Boardwalk Trail is shown as a separate pedestrian-only facility (segment 1b). Please refer to page 4.82 where further details show the Boardwalk Trail is a separate facility for PEDESTRIAN USE ONLY whereas, the Coast to Crest Trail is a MULTI-USE facility. (Attachment A).

Pursuant to your suggestion in your letter of May 23, 2014 to Tim Fennell, Dick Bobertz and David Kaye, we welcome the opportunity to get together with you and/or your staff and all interested parties to resolve this issue as soon as possible. In fact, we would be happy to coordinate such a meeting.
We strongly encourage Commission staff to re-evaluate its position regarding the removal of the Boardwalk Trail. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Boaz, Executive Director at 858-755-6956 or trish@sdrvc.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Shapiro
President

cc: Trish Boaz
City of Del Mar, Mayor Lee Haydu
City of Solana Beach, Mayor Thomas Campbell
San Dieguito River Park JPA, Dick Bobertz
22nd District Agricultural Association, Tim Fennell
Southern California Edison, David Kaye

Attachment: Figure 4.17 of the Final SCE Restoration Plan (CDP 6-81-330-A3); Excerpts
Figure 4.17. Coast to Crest Trail Plan
the new trails is insignificant and is greatly outweighed by the overall benefits of eliminating the existing uncontrolled access and by the institution of trail monitoring and policing, litter control, etc., that are proposed as part of the project. Trails benefit the project by enhancing public appreciation of the restoration effort. The proposed trail will provide opportunities for nature study and education about wetland values. The Board determined that accommodation of the planned human uses as part of the Project through implementation of the managed trail system is necessary to avoid otherwise significant adverse impacts and to ensure the viability of the overall restoration project because the trail system will guide public use into appropriate areas thus mitigating potential impacts to sensitive habitat associated with unregulated access throughout the site. In addition, the proposed formalized trail system will compensate the public for the loss of existing informal public access.

With the exception of the Coast to Crest Trail, which is located within the minimum one hundred foot buffer in some locations, there is a buffer between the upland edge of the transition area and all public access project components. As previously described, the JPA portion of the project would implement a series of four connected freshwater runoff treatment ponds, occurring within Module TP41. These freshwater runoff treatment ponds will be installed on a 4.6-acre segment located immediately south of the Albertson’s shopping center. The purpose of the freshwater runoff treatment ponds is filtration of sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, oily substances, and invasive plant species collected from the watershed during low hydrologic flows, and to reduce the flow of freshwater into the newly restored tidal salt marsh system.

As previously mentioned, the JPA has insufficient funding at this time to do anything more than construct the trail and related facilities through the restoration area. The permanent nature/interpretive center is not included in this restoration plan.

4.6.2 Coast to Crest Trail

As envisioned by the JPA adopted Park Concept Plan, the Coast to Crest Trail is a multiple use, non-motorized trail system for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. This regional trail is proposed to extend for 55 miles from the beach at Del Mar to Volcan Mountain, north of Julian. Seventeen miles of the Coast to Crest Trail already exist, and an additional three miles are currently under construction. The JPA operates and maintains the Trail system with its Ranger staff, currently four in number, and a volunteer maintenance and construction crew and volunteer patrol. Once the wetland restoration project is completed, additional ranger staffing will be assigned to the coastal area for trail maintenance and patrol activities.

The Coast to Crest Trail is designed to consist of two separate trail types which frequently are aligned side-by-side, but which may be separated. One trail type would accommodate hikers and equestrians. It is an average of four feet in width and has a tread surface of native soil or decomposed granite. The other trail type is for bicycles and other users who require a hardened surface. This type of trail, which is intended to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Caltrans’ Class 1 bike path standards, has an 8-foot-wide hardened surface. The Concept Plan calls for the trail tread to consist of concrete, soil cement/soil stabilizer, or a polymer binder. Due to the proposed Coastal Trail alignment’s proximity to wetland habitat, asphalt will not be used. The preferred trail surface will be decomposed granite combined with soil cement or other non-petroleum binder. The design
grade for the trail is 0-5 percent with a maximum of 2 percent preferred. The cross slope should be 2 percent to facilitate drainage.

The JPA's alignment for the Coast to Crest Trail in the coastal area, which represents the westernmost extent of the trail, is along the north side of the San Dieguito River. The proposed Coast to Crest Trail has been aligned to avoid sensitive habitat to the extent feasible. It would be located along the outer edge of the project area perimeter and on existing disturbed areas in all cases. The long-term plan is for the Coast to Crest Trail to link all the way to the beach, however no alignment has been identified at this time west of Jimmy Durante Boulevard. Therefore the trail described in this Plan extends from Jimmy Durante Boulevard to the Horsepark.

Segment by segment descriptions follow, beginning at Jimmy Durante Boulevard. Illustrations of the trail segments, viewing platforms and sign types can be found on Figure 4.17.

From Jimmy Durante Boulevard, pedestrians would access the trail via a newly constructed trail segment (1a) leading from the road down to the boardwalk (1b). Bicyclists would access the trail by exiting from Jimmy Durante Boulevard at the first vehicular entrance and proceeding across the Fairgrounds property near where it narrows, directly to Segment 2 (bypassing the boardwalk). The boardwalk is for pedestrians only.

Segment 1a brings the pedestrian down from Jimmy Durante Boulevard to the beginning of the trail (Segment 1b). Segment 1a is an 80-foot-long concrete path. (From Jimmy Durante Boulevard, hikers can go south on the existing Jimmy Durante Boulevard Bridge, and from there either go west on the existing River Path Del Mar or east on a planned future trail to the Grand Avenue Overlook.) Ultimately the western route would provide access to the beach and to the proposed Coastal Rail Trail.

Segment 1b would be a 12’ high boardwalk for pedestrian use only. It will have a six-foot-wide pedestrian walkway clearance. This segment begins at Jimmy Durante Boulevard via Segment 1a and skirts the southern edge of the Fairgrounds overflow parking lot for a distance of approximately 1,460 feet. The boardwalk will be composed of recycled composite lumber.

Segment 2, approximately 1,400 feet long, would be the beginning of the 12’-wide multi-use section of the trail. Bicyclists approaching from Jimmy Durante Boulevard would enter the trail at the juncture of Segments 1 and 2. Bicyclists heading west on the trail would be directed at that point to cross the dirt lot to the existing vehicular ramp, and from there to the existing bike lanes on Jimmy Durante Boulevard where they could then travel south to Powerhouse Park or north to Solana Beach. Most of Segment 2 will be located on an existing dirt berm. The trail will be composed of an 8-foot-wide, stabilized, compacted decomposed granite (d.g.) surface, with 1” header boards on both sides of the 8-foot-wide trail portion to give definition to the trail, and 2-foot-wide graded shoulders.

As indicated on the diagram, there will be a viewing platform at the junction of Segments 1 and 2. This feature will help to identify this spot as the Coast to Crest Trail terminus.

Segment 3 would be 840 feet long and located at the southernmost boundary of the Surf & Turf Golf Driving Range. A 6-foot-high net fence is proposed to be located north of the trail.
outside of the floodway to protect trail users from golf balls that may still be rolling at this point. The net will be removed during Fairground operations that utilize the Surf & Turf lot for parking. The trail will be composed of an 8-foot-wide, stabilized, compacted decomposed granite (d.g.) surface, with 1" header boards on both sides of the 8-foot-wide trail portion to give definition to the trail, and 2-foot-wide graded shoulders.

Segment 4 would cross under the I-5 freeway bridge as well as two drainage channels on both sides of the freeway. In order to pass under the I-5 Bridge, an undercrossing would be constructed within the northernmost bay of the I-5 Bridge. No water flows through this bay, which is currently lined with riprap, during normal river flows. The trail would, however, be subject to inundation during significant storm events. The undercrossing would require that the two drainage channels occurring on both sides of the freeway be crossed. These crossings would be accomplished using open bottom concrete box culverts. Bridges are not desired because they could impede flows during flood events. Under the freeway (Segment 4b), the entire trail would be constructed of concrete and would be designed as indicated on the cross-sections provided in Figure 4.18. Under the freeway the trail would be 12 feet wide, with 12 feet height clearance.

Segment 4a is 110 feet long. An open bottom concrete culvert is proposed to bridge the riprap lined drainage crossing. Of several crossing methods considered, this structure has been determined to have the least impact on wetland habitat without affecting the hydrologic conditions. Segment 4b is 220 feet long.

Segment 4c is 120 feet long. As also in Segment 4a, an open bottom concrete culvert is proposed to bridge the drainage crossing. Again, of several crossing methods considered, this structure has again been determined to have the least impact on wetland habitat without affecting the hydrologic conditions.

Segment 5, about 2,000-feet-long, would be parallel to I-5, utilizing an existing maintenance road. No widening is necessary. The maintenance road is used by SBC to maintain fiber optic cables that parallel I-5. This segment would be the western extent of equestrian use of the trail, until such time as the trail is extended westward to the beach. Signs, located 25 feet north of the undercrossing, will indicate that at that point equestrians must turn-around and return before crossing under the freeway. No improvements are planned for this segment except to repair a few muddy, rutted areas.

Segment 6, about 1,100-feet-long, would continue on the maintenance road, behind the Albertson’s shopping center. There is substantial urban run-off in this location. Consequently, it is proposed to create a series of freshwater runoff treatment ponds (See Figures 4.19 and 20) that would serve to treat and clean the urban run-off before the water reaches the finger channels of the restored wetlands as described later in this chapter. The trail would be built up to allow the water to flow between the freshwater runoff treatment ponds underneath the trail via pipes. A portion of the trail surface through this Segment, where the trail forms a spillway for stormwater runoff, will be composed of concrete. The remainder of the trail surface through the freshwater runoff treatment ponds will be composed of a cellular containment geogrid with decomposed granite. Through the freshwater runoff treatment ponds, the trail will be 14’ feet wide to accommodate utility maintenance trucks.
Figure 4.18. San Dieguito River Bridge North Abutment Profile: 8-foot Path with 2-foot Striped Shoulders
Segment 7, 653-feet-long, would parallel San Andres Drive. There is an existing sidewalk along San Andres Drive. Pedestrians and bicyclists may utilize the sidewalk or road, respectively, to enter or leave the Coast to Crest Trail at this point. The trail will be composed of an 8-foot-wide, stabilized, compacted decomposed granite (d.g.) surface, with 1" header boards on both sides of the 8-foot-wide trail portion to give definition to the trail, and 2-foot-wide graded shoulders.

Segment 8, 2,829-feet-long, would be located on excavated soils that will be placed on this site as part of the Wetland Restoration Project, along the top of the proposed 4:1 slope that will separate the proposed fill area from the restored wetland by 100 feet or more. Near the western end of this property, the trail would pass the site of a future Nature/Interpretive Center. Viewing platforms would be located midway at an appropriate location adjacent to the trail and at the end of this trail segment. The trail will be composed of an 8-foot-wide, stabilized, compacted decomposed granite (d.g.) surface, with 1" header boards on both sides of the 8-foot-wide trail portion to give definition to the trail, and 2-foot-wide graded shoulders.

For much of the trail's alignment, a lodgepole fence would be installed along the southern or eastern edge of the trail to provide a physical and psychological barrier between trail users and existing or soon to be created wetland areas.

4.6.2.1 Interpretive Signage Program

Educational objectives of the interpretive program include the following:

1) A fully-functioning ecosystem is composed of a variety of habitats (i.e., salt marsh, mudflats, native grassland, riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral) each of which is an integral part of the whole, providing for a range of wildlife species, including forage, cover, nesting areas, refuge, etc.

To explore this theme, interpretive signage will identify the various naturally occurring or restored habitat areas, and explain the following:

- 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

2) One of the most important objectives to convey to Park visitors is that protection and preservation of our existing wetlands is preferred to restoration because successful wetland restoration is difficult to achieve at any cost. To explore this theme, pictorial signage will show the historical process whereby the San Dieguito Lagoon was degraded over time by filling in the floodplain and upstream river diversions. Then the effort involved in the restoration will be demonstrated with before, during and after photographs. Examples of what a successfully restored area should look like will be juxtaposed next to current photographs or in front of an actual site being restored so that park visitors can begin to judge for themselves how successful the restoration process is.
Sincerely,
22nd District Agricultural Association

Frederick Schenk
President

Sincerely,
City of Del Mar

Lee Haydu
Mayor

Sincerely,
City of Solana Beach

Thomas Campbell
Mayor

Sincerely,
San Dieguito River Park JPA

Dave Roberts
Chair

Sincerely,
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Peter M. Shapiro
President

CC:  Toni Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly
    Marty Block, Senator
    Greg Cox, County Supervisor
    Dr. Charles Lester, Executive Director – California Coastal Commission
    22nd DAA, Board of Directors
    City of Del Mar, Councilmembers
    City of Solana Beach, Councilmembers
    Sherilyn Sarb, Deputy Director - California Coastal Commission
    Heather Johnston, Enforcement - California Coastal Commission
    Dr. John Dixon, Ecologist/Wetland Coordinator - California Coastal Commission
    Tim Fennel, General Manager – 22nd DAA
    Rebecca Bartling, Deputy General Manager – 22nd DAA
    David Ott, City Manager – Solana Beach
    Scott Huth, City Manager – Del Mar
TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Update on SDRP Coast Ranger Station

SITUATION:

At previous Board meetings, JPA staff provided updates on the progress of constructing the ranger station at the San Dieguito Lagoon, the most recent being at your Board’s April 2014 meeting. JPA staff has been working with our architect (Rinehardt-Herbst) on the design plans and has initiated the permit process. As you will recall, the San Dieguito River Park Master Plan for the Coastal Area includes a “park maintenance building” off of San Andres and south of Via de la Valle on one of the restoration disposal sites (DS32). The Final EIR/EIS for the San Dieguito Wetland Restoration Project also included the “maintenance building” adjacent to a nature center in this location.

A “Substantial Conformance Review” permit application was submitted to the City of San Diego by JPA staff on June 5, 2014. A Coastal Development Permit will also be required from the Coastal Commission. JPA staff is scheduled to present the design to the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board at their June meeting.

The draft design plans were presented to the CAC’s Project Review Committee at their April 2014 meeting and to the CAC at their meeting June 6th meeting.

The proposed single-story ranger station would be 1,400 square feet in size with an attached 1,000 SF garage for a total building area of 2,400 SF as well as a 55ft by 48ft fenced work yard. The building would include ranger offices, an interior workspace, employee restroom, and a public restroom and conference room. The front of the building would include an entry porch, a pedestrian access ramp and access to the public restroom. Project plans and other details including proposed building materials will be presented at today’s meeting.

CAC RECOMMENDATION:

The CAC voted unanimously at their meeting on June 6, 2014 to recommend support for proceeding with the design plans as presented, and to consider incorporating solar panels into the design.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Anderson
Principal Environmental Planner
TO: JPA Board
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Founders’ Tribute

SITUATION:

At your May meeting, your Board determined that there should be a memorial in the Park in honor of Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz as well as other persons who were instrumental to the creation of the San Dieguito River Park. One idea that was mentioned was a “founder’s wall” with names and, where possible, videos (on QR codes) of individuals who were significant to the founding of the San Dieguito River Park, including those who are still with us. The recognition of these individuals would be located at one place, rather than distributed in multiple locations throughout the Park. Your Board authorized Chair Roberts and CAC Chair Tom Golich to appoint a committee to identify who should be honored in this way, what form it would take and where it would be located. The Committee would return to your Board with a proposal.

After seeking volunteers from the CAC and others, the composition of the committee will be:

Chair Dave Roberts
CAC Chair Tom Golich
Susan Carter, JPA
Margaret Schlesinger, League of Women Voters
Jacqueline Winterer, coastal property owner representative
Art Schmitz, eastern property owner representative
Trish Boaz, SDRVC

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Carter
Deputy Director
San Dieguito River Park
Joint Powers Authority
18372 Sycamore Creek Road
Escondido, CA 92025
(858) 674-2270  Fax (858) 674-2280
www.sdrp.org

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Becky Bartling, Ex Officio
  22nd District Agricultural Assoc.

Dick Robertz
  Executive Director

June 10, 2014

Don Henderson
Senior Manager, Creative Expression
Apple Education
Apple
1 Infinite Loop, MS 43-2EDU
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Henderson:

SUBJECT: Apple Experience at San Dieguito Lagoon

This letter is a follow-up to our previous letter of May 12th, and our phone conversation last week.

The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority proposes to provide an educational experience for a group of approximately 450 global educators and Apple team members over a three day period on July 15-17, 2014. This experience will take place at our new Birdwing Open Air Classroom overlooking the San Dieguito Lagoon.

There will be 5 “stations” as detailed below:

- Birds and Binoculars- participants will use binoculars and scopes to observe species in the lagoon, led by experienced birders.
- The Art of Nature- participants will collect specimens under ranger supervision (plant cuttings, butterfly caterpillars and pupa) from the lagoon to create art and poetry for inspiration. The station will have all art supplies needed.
- Lagoon Ecosystem- a ranger will discuss the importance of the lagoon ecosystem and history of the 115-acre San Dieguito Tidal Wetland Restoration Project.
- Water Sampling- participants will collect water from different locations at the lagoon and test each sample for pH levels, dissolved oxygen and salinity. This activity will demonstrate how our water treatment ponds are helping to eliminate urban runoff before it reaches the lagoon.
• Ranger Walk- rangers will lead the participants on a walk along the Lagoon Trail talking about the natural history of the Park.

During their experience at each of the “stations”, participants will use the interactive San Dieguito River Park and Citizen Science apps to locate, identify and report plant and animal sightings.

Assuming there are approximately 150 participants each day, we understand that they will arrive at the site in three groups for 90-minute sessions (10-11:30 a.m., 12-1:30 p.m., and 2-3:30 p.m.). Each 90-minute session will provide a learning experience to groups of 30 people at each station for 15-18 minutes.

Our partners in presenting this experience include:
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
San Diego Coastkeeper
UCSB Marine Science Institute
The Torrey Pines Docent Society
United States Geological Survey
Audubon Society

For the use of the site, the development of the program and the services rendered over the three day period (Senior Coastal Ranger Natalie Borchardt and Interpretive Ranger Leana Bulay and 4 other park rangers) Apple’s cost will be $20,000. An invoice for that amount is attached. Please note that our EIN number is 95-6000934.

Sincerely,

Dick Bobertz