



San Dieguito River Valley
Regional Open Space Park
18372 Sycamore Creek Road
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www.sdrp.org

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
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Dick Bobertz
Executive Director

AGENDA

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

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, November 16, 2007

County Administrative Center

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303

San Diego

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

Introductions and Announcements.

Approval of the Minutes of October 19, 2007

Executive Directors Report :

Public Comment

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

ACTION

1. Fire Damage Report – Impacts and Action Steps
 - a. River Park Office
 - b. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse
 - c. Field Assets
 - d. Habitat and Watershed Impacts

INFORMATION

2. Status Reports (Oral)

a. River Park Projects:

- i. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead
- ii. Lake Hodges Bike Ped Bridge
- iii. Coastal Trail, Treatment Ponds and Restoration Project
- iv. Pamo Valley Trail
- v. Heritage Trail Link

3. 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.

4. Communications

5. CLOSED SESSION. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. The Board will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(b)(1)(3) to confer with legal counsel regarding receipt of a claim pursuant to the Tort Claims Act from Mr. Neal Hribar.

THE NEXT REGULAR JPA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007. (PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, INSTEAD OF THE USUAL THIRD FRIDAY).

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

****Due to the high cost of printing and mailing the JPA and CAC agendas, the JPA has converted to an email distribution of both agendas. Please advise the office at 858 674-2270 if you do not have an e-mail address and want other arrangements will be made. Full packets will continue to be mailed free of charge to JPA and CAC members upon request. For others, the cost of the full agenda, with backup material, is \$45 per year, and the cost of the agenda without backup material is \$10 per year. **The agenda and minutes are available at no cost on the San Dieguito River Park web site at www.sdrp.org**

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TO: JPA Board

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Fire Damage Report and Action Steps

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive information and provide direction to staff as appropriate.

SITUATION:

The San Dieguito River Park was badly hit in the Witch Fire. 62% of the Focused Planning Area was burned. The attached map shows the areas of the Focused Planning Area that were affected. The map also shows the areas that were burned in both the Cedar Fire and the Witch Fire.

1. River Park Office The circa 1920's woodframe River Park office was totally destroyed in the Witch Fire. The loss included the building that housed the 5-person administrative staff and library and files, and the adjacent garage office that housed the 4-person ranger staff and their equipment, and 3 sheds with all tools, radios, and tractors, trailers, trucks and native plant nursery. Fortunately, the office and equipment was insured. Also, one truck had been in the shop for repairs at the time of the fire and a new one recently purchased was still waiting at the dealer. Most of the computers were backed up, so not too much computer data was lost. However, binders of agreements, contracts, resolutions, permits, project files, etc. were lost.

Temporary office space is almost secured at the time this agenda is being mailed. River Park staff will be renting space in the City of San Diego's former San Pasqual Reclamation Facility on Highland Valley Road about ¼ mile east of Sycamore Creek Road, our former office location.

Staff is working with our insurance adjuster to collect an inventory of all office items and establish replacement values.

2. Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse The circa 1880 Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse was totally destroyed in the Witch Fire, except for the adobe walls of the one adobe room in the house. Fortunately the windmill restored by the Escondido and Rancho Bernardo Sunrise Rotary Clubs was not damaged except superficially, although the water tank was lost. Immediately upon becoming aware of the damage to this significant site, our historic preservation architect, Ione Stiegler, contacted Wayne Donaldson, Director of the State Office of Historic Preservation, to confirm that

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Sikes Adobe is eligible for FEMA disaster funding to rebuild it. Wayne Donaldson said that his recommendation is that the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse should be stabilized and rebuilt. The restoration contractor, the historians, and the City's Office of Historic Preservation staff have been working closely with SDRP staff to prepare and approve a stabilization plan to prevent further deterioration of the site. This includes steps to shore the remaining walls and doorways and protect the adobe walls from rain and pooled water. SDRP staff has filed for FEMA public disaster assistance.

3. Field Assets Our ranger staff is assessing impacts to our field assets – trails, staging areas, fencing, signs, bridges, kiosks, benches, etc. At this time all the trails in the fire damaged areas are closed. Their priorities are first, public safety, second, resource protection, and third, opening the trails. Their work has been hampered by trail users who are eager to use the trails and ignore the yellow caution tape that has been stretched across the trail openings at the trailheads. Until the trails are fully assessed and repairs are made, there are dangerous conditions caused by downed trees, caved-in trail sections, burned bridges and collapsed retaining walls. At this time we know that the bridges on the Santa Fe Valley Trail (Crosby Estate) were burned, the fiberglass Green Valley Creek bridge on the Piedras Pintadas Trail is twisted and the decking was burned, the decking on the Santa Maria Creek Cantilever bridge was burned. Miles of fencing in San Pasqual Valley was burned. All but two kiosks were burned. SDRP staff has filed for FEMA public disaster assistance to replace the damaged field assets.

4. Habitat and Watershed Impacts Many areas of the Park in the Lake Hodges, Del Dios and San Pasqual areas lost all their vegetation and the blackened soil is all that is left. Not only does this mean that the habitat for the sensitive species of the River Park was lost, but that when the rains begin the soil will quickly erode. In addition, although the invasive species, lepidium, arundo and tamarisk, were burned, this does not kill these plants and they will be the first to rebound, making it more difficult for the native species to re-establish. A core scientific team composed of SDRP and SDRVC staff, biologists from the Conservation Biology Institute, fire expert Rick Halsey and invasive species specialist Mike Kelly have met to develop an action program. In addition, SDRP staff has met with City of San Diego Water Department staff to discuss concerns specific to the Lake Hodges area.

Attachments:

1. Map of SDRP Focused Planning Area overlaid with Map of Witch Fire Burn Area

