AGENDA
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Friday, November 6, 2015

Location: San Rafael Parish.
Pastoral Center, Rooms D & E
(The Pastoral Center building is located on the south side of the parking lot)
17252 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo
(north of Rancho Bernardo Drive)

In order to conduct the meetings effectively, the Chair has asked the Citizens Advisory Committee appointees to please sit at the front of the room. Alternates (who are not sitting in for the regular appointee) and others present are invited to sit in the rows behind the committee. Discussion during the meeting will be conducted by the appointees. Alternates and others are welcome to address the committee during the public comment period or if recognized by the Chair during the meeting. Speaker slips are available. It is important that CAC members comply with the Chair’s Meeting Procedures and maintain decorum and politeness at all times. A quorum is a simple majority of current members. The Chair cannot start the meeting until a quorum is present. PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10:25 A.M.! The CAC may take action on any item listed on the Consent or Discussion/Action agenda, but only when a quorum is present. If a quorum is temporarily lost during the meeting, no further discussion will take place until the quorum is regained. If the quorum is not regained, the meeting will be adjourned. Please advise the Chair at the beginning of the meeting if you must leave before 12:15 p.m.

NOTICE: Agenda packets are distributed by e-mail only. If you do not have an e-mail address, please contact the office at 858-674-2270 to make alternative arrangements.

Roll Call and Introductions
Chair

Late arrivals should speak to staff to make sure their attendance is noted.

Approval of September 11, 2015 Minutes
Chair

Executive Director’s Report
Staff

a. Update on Boardwalk Removal
b. Review of Interpretive Feature and Programming Policy No. P15-02

Public Comment
Public
DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports
   
a. Project Review Committee
   
b. Trails Committee

2. Recommendation to JPA on El Camino Bridge/Road Widening Project
   Recirculated Draft EIR (page 7)

3. Recommendation on Interpretive Feature and Programming Policy No.P15-02(page 19)

4. Discussion of Process for Election of New Chair and Vice-Chair Positions for 2016

INFORMATION

5. Park Project Status (oral)
   
a. Lagoon Ranger Station
   
b. Rancho Santa Fe Easement
   
c. Pamo Valley Trail
   
d. Update on Meeting with Gates Property Manager re RSF Connection

6. Communications An opportunity for any CAC member or the public to bring to
   the CAC’s attention a project or activity not reviewed by the Project Review
   Committee in their reports

Adjournment

Chair

If you have any questions, please call Kevin McKernan at (858) 674-2270.
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 11, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Golich  CAC, Chair
Jackie Higgins  American Society of Landscape Architects
Phil Pryde  Audubon Society
Jan Fuchs  Carmel Valley Planning Board
Linda Oster  Del Dios Town Council
Don Wendt  Equestrian - Ramona Trails Association
Leonard Haynes  Julian Community Planning Group
Margaret Schlesinger  League of Women Voters
Ben Hillebrecht  San Diego City Agricultural Advisory Board
Carol Carr  San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
Mid Hoppenrath  San Dieguito Planning Group
Dave Kreitzer  San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Bill Michalsky  Sierra Club
Pat Whitt  Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Colleen Bradley  Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Arthur Schmitz  Eastern Property Owner
Jacqueline Winterer  Coastal Property Owner
Cory Ha’o  Coastal Property Owner
Terry Badger  Central Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Kevin McKernan  San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson  San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller  San Dieguito River Park JPA

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Golich convened the meeting at 10:40 a.m. at the San Rafael Parish. Office Manager Brenda Miller took the roll call. A quorum was met with 18 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes- June 5, 2015

Bill Michalsky moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2015 meeting and Margaret Schlesinger seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chair’s Report

At the June 19, 2015 JPA meeting the Board approved the Executive Director Employment Agreement for Kevin McKernan. The Board thanked Interim Director Mark Ochenduszko for his hard work and all that he accomplished during his tenure. At the August 21, 2015 meeting the Board approved simplifying the San Dieguito River Park funds held at the County of San Diego. Executive Director McKernan presented
P15-01 to the Board and asked them to review for discussion at a future meeting. The Board also discussed the schedule of future meetings and decided they will plan to meet every month for the remainder of 2015. Executive Director McKernan gave his report with a Power Point presentation. The Board members appreciated the modern presentation.

Executive Director’s Report

a. Review and Comment on P15-01 to be Adopted at 9/18 JPA meeting

Executive Director McKernan stated that all member agencies have approved and adopted the renewal of the JEPA Agreement. With the JEPA Agreement came many to do items. One item was to review and revise as necessary, two JPA policies commenting on land use projects; P90 and P14-01. Executive Director McKernan has met with the Project Review Committee, board members and steering committee that worked to revise the JEPA. No one has provided input. Executive Director McKernan included Policy 96, combined the three policies (P90, P14-01 and P96) restated the policies and created a new policy that will be easier to follow when looking at a project. The abstention policy is first, the communications policy 90, then policy 14 as to whether to send comments on letterhead and recording the board vote. Executive Director McKernan took the draft document P15-01 to the JPA board in August. The same document will be on JPA board agenda Friday, September 18. The policy will have relevance for the PRC committee of CAC. Jan Fuchs stated it is important to emphasize to the JPA Board that Board members do not have to leave room during the discussion and vote on a project.

Jacqueline Winterer made a motion to make P15-01 an action item on this agenda. Jan Fuchs seconded the motion. Chair Golich asked for a vote to add this item to the agenda. All in favor.

Jacqueline Winterer made the motion to approve P15-01 as written. Phil Pryde seconded the motion. A vote was called for to approve the policy as written. All in favor.

b. Review and Comment on Interim Interpretive Feature and Programming Directive

Executive Director McKernan provided background and information on this topic. Staff members have sought guidance regarding proposals from individuals and volunteers requesting interpretive features such as signs and plaques, or programming such as education, hikes, walks etc. from the Executive Director. The only policy found was a donation policy and the donation policy does not fit this situation. Executive Director McKernan felt it necessary to give staff guidance with a formal policy. Carol Carr stated that an example would be to have an individual request to put up interpretive signs in the park. Bill Michalsky said features have come to the PRC for review in the past. Executive Director McKernan stated that this policy adds more oversight and he is asking for feedback. This item is going to the JPA Board as an information item at the next meeting. Members stated that there is already a policy and offered to provide a copy to the Executive Director. This policy is for interpretive features and has been presented to the staff.
Public Comment

Cory Ha’o commented on three projects.

1. Reach the Beach project – The issue of horses on the beach went to the Del Mar Lagoon Committee. The San Diego Trails Alliance has offered to clean the beach.

2. Rancho Del Mar project – A meeting was held with the Milan representatives in June and the project has gone to the Carmel Valley Planning Board. The project is a 20 acre lot next to the Polo Fields. Mr. Ha’o feels that due to the environmentally sensitive area this project should be of interest to the JPA. The property is being used for parking and Mr. Ha’o is concerned that water runoff will go into the river. Jan Fuchs stated that it is probably the correct time to bring this project to the PRC for review.

3. Polo fields – The proposed use of the Polo Fields could be increased by 600%. The concern is the environmental impact to the area from the intense use of the fields and parking. The process of leasing the Polo Fields is being done through the City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Department and the future of this property will depend on the proposals received. The City Council will take action on the proposed lease and if CEQA is required there would be a public meeting.

Bill Michalsky asked about the status of the Coast to Crest trail undercrossing through District Agricultural Association property in relation to the Double Track Project. Shawna Anderson stated she is talking with the City of Del Mar about the Coast to Crest Trail crossing Jimmy Durante Boulevard.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Committee Reports

   a. Project Review Committee - Jan Fuchs stated the next meeting will be held Monday, September 21 and stated that it is the policy of the PRC to look at a project when there is an E.I.R.

   b. Trails Committee - Carol Carr reported that the Trails Committee is working with two volunteers and their interpretive projects. Tom Cook is working on a project for the San Pasqual Valley. The project is interpretive panels and a written history in the San Pasqual Valley. The second project is by James Nelson and a committee from Solana Beach, with an effort on the San Dieguito Lagoon area historical information. Carol reported that both projects will come to the CAC sometime soon.

INFORMATION

2. Report on Osuna Valley Bridge Feasibility Study

Shawna Anderson reported that an engineering and environmental consultant team Kleinfelder was hired to conduct the Osuna Valley Bridge Feasibility Study for a section of the Coast to Crest Trail east of the Polo Fields. The study was finalized last month. (The RFP sent out from the City of San Diego for the Polo Fields property has a clause that the lessee must finish the trail at the southern end of the Polo...
Fields.) The study is to provide locations for crossing, bridge designs and cost estimates. The study is not a trail alignment study. The area is downstream from the Morgan Run golf cart bridge. The report is based on three crossing locations and three bridge types. The preferred location is the southernmost crossing with 150 foot span and the preferred bridge type is the steel truss. The access and bridge construction is easier at this location. The cost to design and construct the bridge is $1.12 million. Thank you to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy for funding this study. There are many things that need to happen in the future; utility easements, detailed surveys, trail connection to San Dieguito Road, hydrology analysis, environmental permits, CEQA, and funding.

3. Park Project Status (oral)

   a. Lagoon Ranger Station – Shawna Anderson reported that permits have been received from the California Coastal Commission and the City of San Diego. The architect is drawing construction plans that will be submitted to the City of San Diego soon for a building permit. We are hoping to begin the project this winter and are looking into loans. The Executive Director asked for financing ideas.

   b. Pamo Valley Trail – Shawna Anderson reported that there have been many site visits. The area is a traditional cultural landscape and the trail alignment avoids most of the archeological sites. Details are being worked out with City staff and the application for permit will be submitted soon. REI is donating $43,000 to this trail. $33,000 was from a contest REI sponsored and $10,000 was an additional donation from REI for the trail. A grant application for a River Parkways Grant has also been submitted.

4. Communications – Jacqueline Winterer stated that the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the Fairgrounds, regarding the East overflow lot and the judge dismissed the lawsuit. Colleen from Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation said that she and Executive Director McKernan met with Supervisor Jacob regarding the Santa Ysabel Nature Center. This property will provide safer access to connect the Coast to Crest Trail to the Santa Ysabel East Preserve. It was announced that the County will staff the Center, instead of volunteers from partner organizations. Jan Fuchs announced that Trish Boaz has been nominated for San Diego Magazine Woman of the Year for her work with the San Dieguito River Park.

Adjournment

Chair Golich adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m. and stated that the next meeting will be held October 2.
TO: CAC
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: El Camino Real Bridge / Road Widening Project Recirculated Draft EIR

RECOMMENDATION:
Discuss and make recommendations for the EIR comment letter.

SITUATION:
In 2006 the City of San Diego released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the widening of El Camino Real and replacement of the existing bridge over the San Dieguito River (Attachments 1 and 2). The JPA submitted a comment letter at that time. Due to many factors, including comments received on that DEIR, the City delayed the EIR process for several years to make project changes and recently issued a Recirculated DEIR for public review with comments due to the City by November 9, 2015. The Project Review Committee (PRC) has reviewed the project on several occasions most recently at their October 19, 2015 meeting. A draft comment letter from JPA staff is provided for the CAC’s review and comment (Attachment 3).

Many elements of the project remain the same as in 2006. The Recirculated DEIR evaluated seven alternatives with the Eastern Alignment Alternative as the preferred project (Attachment 2). Changes made to the project are outlined below.

PROJECT SUMMARY:
The project entails widening El Camino Real between Via de la Valle and San Dieguito Road including replacing the existing bridge in order to raise the bridge above the 100-year flood level, to improve traffic capacity and flow, and to improve pedestrian and vehicular access. The existing segment of El Camino Real is 2 lanes, 2,400 feet long, 23 feet wide, with no shoulders, bike lanes, or pedestrian walkways. The project would widen the roadway between San Dieguito Road and Via de la Valle to four lanes and add bike lanes, a 22-foot wide landscaped parkway with pedestrian walkway, and a 4-foot wide raised concrete median for a total width of 104 feet. The bridge itself would be 73 feet wide with 2 sets of piers in the river (6 piers total). The bridge would be 14 feet longer and 6 feet higher than the existing bridge. The project also includes intersection improvements at Via de la Valle and San Dieguito Road and would widen the south side of Via de la Valle to El Camino Real North. See Attachment 4 for project layouts.
All the alternatives evaluated in the Recirculated DEIR (except the Lower Elevation) would provide a trail undercrossing at the north end of the new bridge to accommodate a Coast to Crest Trail east/west connection. The trail undercrossing would connect the two existing Coast to Crest Trail segments on the west and east sides of the new bridge on the Horse Park property and on the Polo Club property. The undercrossing would have 12 feet of clearance for equestrian use and would be set at the 10-year flood elevation under the new bridge.

All the bridge alternatives would also allow for a cantilever trail on the west side of the new bridge to provide an equestrian connection to the future Coast to Crest Trail from the south. The trail would be multi use but used primarily by equestrians that are not accommodated on the bridge itself. The JPA Board adopted a resolution in 2013 requesting that the City incorporate a trail cantilever into their project. However, the City’s project does not include funding or construction of the cantilever. It would be up to the JPA (or another entity) to fund the cantilever. Nevertheless if funding can be secured, then the cantilever could be added to the construction of the bridge. The Coast to Crest Trail in San Pasqual Valley has such a cantilever on the Bandy Canyon Bridge to cross Santa Maria Creek.

Changes made to the project since 2006:

Originally, the Eastern Alignment alternative included retaining the existing El Camino Real bridge to use as a trail over the river to accommodate trail connections from the south. The JPA Board had expressed interest in owning the bridge but ultimately decided against it for liability and maintenance reasons. Thus, all the bridge replacement alternatives assume the existing bridge would be removed.

In September 2006, an ad-hoc community task force was formed by then-councilman Scott Peters to explore other alternatives and issues associated with widening El Camino Real and Via de la Valle. JPA staff, community leaders, and other interested organizations participated in the task force. Based on their input, the proposed width of the road was reduced from 122 feet to 104 feet.

A roundabout alternative for the Eastern Alignment preferred project was added and evaluated in the Recirculated DEIR. The task force had evaluated roundabouts as a desirable design to better fit with the scenic quality of the area (as opposed to traditional intersections), but determined they were not feasible based on traffic data provided by the City at the time. According to the DEIR, because the roundabouts would require more road right-of-way and would impact a greater amount of habitat, they are not favored by the City as the preferred alternative. However, the roundabouts would operate effectively according to information in the DEIR.

The project’s proposed mitigation site is located on JPA-owned property south of Horse Park and west of El Camino Real and is combined with SANDAG’s mitigation site called
W19. The mitigation would create and restore riparian and salt marsh habitat at a ratio of up to 4:1 particularly to replace clapper rail habitat.

Construction of the new bridge would span a period of two to three years. Work in the river corridor would only be allowed outside of the bird breeding season from October 1 through January 31. Two possible bridge construction options are described in the DEIR: earthen berms or elevated trestles extending across the river. Both methods would have substantive temporary impacts associated with impeding river flows and wildlife (berms) to noisy pile driving (700-800 piles) that would extend over three months (trestle). Temporary driven piles may also be needed for the berm option for stability (up to 300 piles). The DEIR does not specify a preference for either option.

The JPA’s draft comment letter (Attachment 3) outlines the issues in the DEIR that remain a concern regarding the project’s potential impacts to resources in the San Dieguito River Valley.

One issue not addressed in the JPA’s draft letter is the potential impacts to the clapper rail – the third largest population of clapper rails in the state exists in the riparian habitat primarily upstream of the existing bridge. The bird is a resident of the area meaning it is not migratory and thus exists year-round in the adjacent habitat. It is the responsibility of the state and federal resources agencies (primarily the US Fish and Wildlife Service), as well as the City under the MSCP, to protect this endangered bird species and ensure project impacts are adequately mitigated.

In response to comments received on the 2006 DEIR, the Recirculated DEIR pays more attention to the potential impacts of the project to the clapper rail including potential effects from hydrologic changes and noise from construction activities (pile driving). However, the DEIR states that because the project is the only bridge replacement proposed or constructed that would traverse a population of clapper rails and not enough information is known about the clapper rail, conclusions regarding short- and long-term effects to the resident rail population can’t be made. Impacts are determined to be mitigated by replacing habitat at a ratio of 4:1 nearby.

However, the proposed mitigation plan in the DEIR does not appear to include a long-term monitoring plan (ie, more than the standard 5 years) and detailed performance standards to determine the extent of impact to the clapper rail population from project implementation (including rail behavior) and whether the mitigation site supports clapper rails. JPA staff plans to investigate whether these conditions are being considered by the resources agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Anderson
Principal Planner
Attachments:

1. Project Study Area
2. Project Alternative Alignments
3. Draft JPA letter for Recirculated DEIR
4. Project Information
El Camino Real
Road/Bridge Widening

Proposed Project
Alternatives El Camino Real
Bridge Replacement Project

JPA Mitigation Area
City of San Diego MHPA
Eastern Alignment
Western Alignment
Central Alignment
Roundabout Alignment
Road Capacity/Bicycle Safety Alignment

Figure ES-1
Subject: Comments on Recirculated Draft EIR
El Camino Real Bridge / Road Widening Project No. 2982/SCH No. 1999071104

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Recirculated Draft EIR. The San Dieguito River Park JPA appreciates the fact that City staff has worked with us to accommodate the Coast to Crest Trail as part of this El Camino Real road widening project with a trail undercrossing and the ability to add a trail cantilever on the west side of the new bridge. The Recirculated DEIR is thorough and we appreciate the changes made to the project design since 2006 in response to concerns voiced by the community and the JPA including reducing the width of the bridge to 76 feet and the road to 104 feet and adding a landscaped parkway to both sides of the bridge and other aesthetic features, as described in Section 2.2.10, to reduce impacts to the scenic quality of the San Dieguito River Valley. We hope to continue working with the City during the final project design to ensure the Coast to Crest Trail undercrossing is designed and included as a component of replacing the El Camino Real Bridge.

The comments included in this letter are based on the JPA’s previous comments on the City’s 2006 project DEIR (October 20, 2006) and on the San Dieguito River Park goals and objectives adopted by the JPA Board and included in the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan. However, due to the timing of the JPA’s board meetings and the public review deadline for the Recirculated DEIR, these comments were not able to be submitted by the deadline without first receiving JPA Board review and approval. The JPA Board would hope that the City, as a member agency of the JPA, consider these comments as it moves forward in the planning and review of this project.

The JPA determined that it could not assume ownership of the existing bridge for a trail (as described in the Recirculated DEIR). The JPA is instead would prefer to see a trail connection along its property on the west side of El Camino Real that would connect to a future cantilever on the new bridge. The JPA is willing to work with the City to identify funding to design and implement the cantilever trail.
Following are the JPA’s specific comments on the Recirculated DEIR:

1. The Lower Elevation alternative would not provide for the needed connection for the Coast to Crest Trail under the new bridge and, therefore, is not consistent with the goals and objectives of the Concept Plan.

2. Page 1-7, second paragraph under Section 1.3.3.3: Please state that the Coast to Crest Trail in the project vicinity is complete from Jimmy Durante Boulevard (in Del Mar) to El Camino Real and currently dead ends at El Camino Real.

3. Although Section 2.2.11 of the DEIR describes the proposed Coast to Crest Trail undercrossing in general, it is not clear how the new undercrossing would physically connect to the existing trail segments on Horse Park (west) and Polo Fields (east) nor how pedestrians and cyclists traveling on the new El Camino Real bridge would access the trail. Particularly in the case of the Horse Park trail segment, it appears the trail would need to be extended towards the east for the Eastern Alignment alternative. In addition, page 2-20 of the DEIR describes a new drainage swale along the toe of the entire eastern embankment slope for the Eastern Alignment. It is not stated how the trail undercrossing would connect to the existing trail on the Polo Fields. The JPA is willing to work with the City engineering staff and review the construction plans when they are available to ensure those connections are designed and made a part of project implementation.

4. Trail users can access the Coast to Crest Trail today from El Camino Real. Please describe how that situation would change with the proposed project.

5. The DEIR should not refer to the proposed undercrossing as the “JPA Trail or JPA undercrossing”. It is a component of the San Dieguito River Park “Coast to Crest Trail”. Table 3.1-5 also incorrectly refers to the trail as the “JPA trail”. The undercrossing would facilitate the existing segment of the Coast to Crest Trail to continue from Horse Park through to the Polo Fields. The trail is correctly referenced on page 3.1-36 of the DEIR (end of second paragraph).

6. Although the DEIR describes a trail cantilever on the west side of the new bridge, the cantilever is not shown on Figure 2-22. We understand the cantilever would be funded and built by others but because it is included in the project description as a proposed feature and analyzed in the DEIR, it should be added to the General Plan shown in Figure 2-22 or in a separate graphic.

7. Figure 2-22 should refer to the Coast to Crest Trail undercrossing, rather than “equestrian trail”. The undercrossing should also be labeled on all the plan profiles (Figures 2-5 through 2-10).
8. The DEIR does not correctly describe the current condition of the Coast to Crest Trail in the project area. The DEIR does not identify the fact that the Coast to Crest Trail Horse Park segment currently exists and dead ends at El Camino Real. Page 3.1-4 under “Project Site Land Uses” should include that trail segment. The statement in Section 3.3.2.6 (end of first paragraph) needs to be updated to reflect the fact that the CTC Trail now exists along the entire southern edge of Horse Park to El Camino Real. The CTC Trail should also be mentioned throughout Table 3.1-5. The description on page 3.1-36 should be updated to reflect the current condition.

9. The Coast to Crest Trail undercrossing should be added to the Construction Steps listed in section 2.2.15.

10. The information on page 3.1-38 about segments 11 and 12 should be eliminated as the Coast to Crest Trail has been completed in this area and those two alternative alignments were not constructed.

11. It is unclear why the DEIR assumes chain link fencing would be used on the trail cantilever, which then results in a conclusion of an unmitigable visual impact for which a statement of overriding considerations is required. There are more aesthetic alternative approaches that should be evaluated that would improve views to and from the cantilever including the use of vertical picket railings to reduce view blockage from the cantilever to the river. Vertical pickets would allow much better views toward the river than chain link and is a safer design as they reduce the ability to climb the fence. An example of a vertical picket railing used to preserve views of the river on a trail cantilever that exists in San Pasqual Valley along the Bandy Canyon road bridge. This design could potentially mitigate the visual impact to below a level of significance. The plans and a photograph from the Bandy Canyon bridge cantilever are enclosed.

12. The minimization of street lighting mentioned on page 2.2-10 of the DEIR to improve the aesthetics of project design should be addressed in the Visual/Aesthetics mitigation measures.

13. The noise contours produced by diesel-powered pile driving extend a distance of two miles along the Coast to Crest Trail (at 60 dBA and higher). We would urge the City to implement the much quieter hydraulic powered pile drivers discussed in the DEIR to reduce noise impacts to the recreating public.

Please feel free to contact our Principal Planner Shawna Anderson at shawna@sdrp.org if you would like to discuss these comments further.

Sincerely,
ATTACHMENT 4d

TYPICAL SECTION - EL CAMINO REAL
WESTERN, CENTRAL, EASTERN ALTERNATIVES

EL CAMINO REAL ROAD/BRIDGE WIDENING
FULL WIDENED ROADWAY TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

Figure 2-1
PURPOSE:

One of the objectives in the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan is to “create a scenic trail and interpretive system and establish recreational areas, including water related uses, which are compatible with the natural values of the river system”. The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and structure to interpreting the San Dieguito River Park’s many diverse resources in accordance with the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan while balancing that interpretation with preserving the scenic quality of the River Park. It is the intent of this policy to balance the need for interpretation with the open, undeveloped nature of the River Park by limiting signage and other built features to that necessary for safety, education, and aesthetics in accordance with the design and development standards for park proposals listed in Appendix D of the Concept Plan. This policy is also a mechanism to evaluate the fiscal sustainability of current and proposed interpretive features and programs.

BACKGROUND:

The Concept Plan provides guidance for an interpretive and educational program that tells the story of the San Dieguito River Valley with interpretive facilities and/or signage throughout the Park to identify and describe various topics of interest, such as biological, cultural and geological resources, agriculture, and the importance of water in the River Valley. Such facilities and signage have been built in the Park over the years by the JPA and are maintained by Park rangers. Interpretive programs and digital and web-based information, developed and maintained by JPA rangers, are successful components of educating school children and other interested parties about the Park and its resources, as well as promoting the Park. In order to continue JPA- and volunteer-based interpretive programming and development in a coordinated and consistent fashion, it has become apparent that more detailed written guidance is needed to supplement that provided in the Concept Plan.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the San Dieguito River Park JPA to establish and maintain an interpretive program that serves to educate and inform the Park visitor in an effort to foster a better understanding of and respect for the diverse resources within the San Dieguito River Valley.

I. The San Dieguito River Park JPA will:

   1. Maintain an existing inventory of physical features (e.g., signs), as well as online resources or links to the SDRP website, and identify actions for upkeep, replacement and removal as necessary.
2. Continue development of interpretive features and programming as required by outside funding sources such as grant and donations.

II. Programs Proposed by Outside Volunteer or Organization

JPA staff shall adhere to the following policies in the cases where volunteers or other organizations offer to develop interpretive features to be placed in the Park or information and/or programs about the Park (e.g., educational hikes and programs) that are to be endorsed or carried out by the JPA.

1. Proposed programs must fulfill a need or meet an educational goal and be consistent with the River Park mission to be considered.

2. Proposed programs must be consistent with the goals and objectives and directives in the San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan including the Design and Development Standards for Park Proposals (SDRP Concept Plan, Appendix D).

3. Staff shall advise any citizen or volunteer proposed project that a written proposal must be submitted to staff for review and consideration. The proposal should include details regarding the proposed project objective, project format (e.g., guided hikes or lectures, signage, brochure, website information, etc.), targeted audience, sources of information for the project, anticipated timeline, and any other information pertinent to the project. The proposal shall also include an estimated budget/cost to implement and maintain the project features. The budget may be developed by the proposer and/or JPA staff.

4. Staff shall consult with the Executive Director initially to discuss the implications of outside proposals. Staff should be prepared to present estimated budget and staff capacity to accept outside proposals. Available staff time, priorities, and resources will be considered as factors in accepting proposals.

5. If the Executive Director authorizes the staff to pursue outside proposals, staff will work with the citizen/volunteer to define a work plan that will be agreed to by both parties.

6. Research sources must be cited in the interpretive material (e.g., guidebooks, website information, etc.), as appropriate.

7. When developing new educational programs the information should be peer reviewed by a source approved by JPA staff.

8. If the information is debatable and/or sensitive, professional outside source(s) should be used as approved by JPA staff.

9. Any program referring to Native American history shall be submitted to the appropriate Tribe(s) for input and comment and a reasonable attempt made to obtain approval of the material from such Tribe or representative. The JPA may also consult with Tribal representatives based on the information provided and seek their approval of any such content.

10. Any program referring to the history of cultures residing in San Diego County prior to 1850 should be solicited from known and recognized descendant groups, or if not available, then the most relevant local historical society.
11. Program material and/or content may be edited and revised by JPA staff in consultation with the citizen or volunteer who initiated the project.
12. In no instance is a citizen or volunteer initiated effort to use the JPA’s name on any materials or in programming without the written approval of the Executive Director.

III. Proposal Submittal Process

Submitted proposals for interpretive or educational materials in the River Park shall follow this process:

1. Once a proposal is developed to the satisfaction of the lead JPA staff person and Executive Director, the item will be put on the agenda for the appropriate subcommittee(s) of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) (Trails or Project Review committee).
2. If recommended for further consideration by the subcommittee, it will be put before the CAC to consider a recommendation.
3. If the CAC recommends the proposal for further consideration by the JPA, the Executive Director will make a determination as to whether the project warrants JPA Board approval or to move forward with administrative approval.

This policy was adopted at the JPA Board Meeting on September 18, 2015

Motion:
Second:
Vote:

Attest:

_________________________
Kevin McKernan,
Executive Director