

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of January 15, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Earnest- Chair  
Sherri Lightner - Vice Chair  
Pam Slater-Price  
Dianne Jacob  
Dave Roberts  
Carl DeMaio  
Olga Diaz  
Tom Golich  
Becky Bartling

**REPRESENTING**

City of Del Mar  
City of San Diego  
County of San Diego  
County of San Diego  
City of Solana Beach  
City of San Diego  
City of Escondido  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
22 District Agricultural Association

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Wayne Brechtel	JPA Counsel
Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Jan Lines	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Anne Cooper	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Freda Reid	San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
Cheryl Goddard	County Dept of Parks and Recreation
John Ingalls	Santa Fe Irrigation District
David Kreitzer	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Phil Pryde	San Diego Audubon Society
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association

**Introduction and Announcements**

2009 Chairwoman Slater- Price convened the meeting at 9:34 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101. Ms. Slater-Price was pleased to report on the 2009 accomplishments which included the David Kreitzer/ Lake Hodges Bridge and the Grand Ave Bridge overlook. Ms. Slater-Price spoke about the many grants the River Park has acquired and the rangers now stationed at the newly restored wetland lagoon. The many accomplishments were a testimonial to all the hard work the River Park staff has made along with responding to the devastation of the 2007 wildfire where the River Park lost its office, adobe farmhouse and 60% of trail system.

Chair Slater –Price thanked the River Park staff and JPA Board who had such a successful year. At this point Ms. Slater-Price turned the meeting over to incoming chair Richard Earnest. Chair Earnest thanked Ms. Slater-Price for all her all her hard work and presented her with flowers. Mr. Earnest introduced and welcomed the new chair of the CAC Committee, Tom Golich.

**Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2009**

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2009 and Boardmember Lightner seconded. Vote : 6 Yes 1 abstention ( Golich )

Boardmember Golich introduced the CAC members in attendance as Freda Reid, Jacqueline Winterer, John Ingalls, Ann Gardner, Phil Pryde and John Degenfelder.

**Public Comment-** Dr.Phil Pryde reported on the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 Christmas Bird Count. Mr. Pryde said that a year ago the estuary was only open a month when 62 species and 1195 birds were observed. This year 1912 birds were counted in the lagoon which is a successful report on the restoration.

River Park Staff, Anne Cooper, stated that she was at the meeting today to support Deputy Director Carter with any questions about the Sikes Adobe Farmstead.

### **ACTION**

#### 1. JPA Board Ad Hoc Committee Assignments

**Recommendation:** Discuss and approve a new Ad Hoc Committee roster for 2010

Boardmember Lightner asked to be removed from the Land Use Committee, and be listed as an alternate instead. She suggested that her place with switched with Olga Diaz.

Boardmember Lightner moved for approval of the Ad Hoc Committees for 2010 with her removal from the Land Use Committee and Boardmember Roberts seconded. All in favor.

#### 2. Budget Cut Impact Scenarios

**Recommendation:** Discuss and provide direction to staff

Chair Earnest stated that at the last Board meeting the representatives of the City of San Diego requested that staff submit a number of scenarios in the event the City of San Diego cannot pay their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter assessment. The motion included a request for information on MSCP legal requirements, the Lake Hodges Golf Improvement recreation fund, budget cuts of 10%, 25% and 36% and a review of contribution methodology.

Director Bobertz requested that Deputy Director Carter discuss the MSCP Land Management requirements. Ms. Carter explained that there are a number of documents in the MSCP that hold members responsible for monitoring and management of the public lands. Ms. Carter stated that by implementing the agreement we have calculated the ranger staff have improved the habitat quality, invasive species and birds along with controlling the trail users. Council Brechtel said that nexus for the City of San Diego to consider is the obligations to manage MSCP lands and they will have obligations to manage this property if the San Dieguito River Park does not do it.

Council Brechtel commented on the Hodges Golf Improvement Center recreational fund of \$440,000. Mr.Brechtel said that his professional opinion is that the funds could be released to the River Park even though the City Attorney denied the initial application by the River Park citing Proposition 218. A

memorandum has been sent by Council Brechtel to Executive Director Bobertz explaining the use of the funds and has been forwarded to the City of San Diego Mayor and City Attorney for review.

Director Bobertz reported on the budget scenarios if a 10%, 25% and 36% cut was made. Mr. Bobertz said that at 10% cut would mean elimination of the Museum Manager, Principal Planner would be cut from  $\frac{3}{4}$  time to  $\frac{1}{2}$  time and the bookkeeping service would be cut. Mr. Bobertz stated that the 36% cut would mean the loss of Executive Director, Principal Planner, and Museum Manager.

Boardmember Lightner said that she and Boardmember DeMaio said that they are working every avenue to try to resolve the situation.

Although the River Park staff have shifted some of their expenses to the wetland area which are funded by Southern California Edison, Boardmember Jacob requested that the River Park review the budget expenses line by line and report to the Board at the next meeting. It was suggested that a Budget Committee meeting be assembled to work on the proposed budget review.

For dealing with the impacts in the fourth quarter, Boardmember Jacob said that with great reluctance, she favored taking a loan from some of the JPA's endowment funds instead of instituting staff furloughs. Other Boardmembers said that the message to the City would be conveyed more effectively if the furloughs were used instead. Executive Director Bobertz said that he did not recommend drawing down the endowment, unless reimbursement could be guaranteed.

Becky Bartling from the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural District reported on a bingo night idea that would be hosted by a non-profit agency where part of the funds would go to the River Park.

Boardmembers Slater-Price and Jacob thanked the City of San Diego representatives for being at the meeting and for their candid comments.

Boardmember DeMaio made a four part motion for the short term budget shortfall to

1. Suspend any work on the property belonging to the City of San Diego as of the final day of payment to the River Park.
2. To have the River Park staff be furloughed one day a month.
3. Instruct staff to look into the legal questions regarding the City of San Diego obligations and to work with their offices to facilitate an outcome on the City Attorneys questions.
4. To look at all options to transform the JPA's revenue stream including all suggestions given by boardmembers and the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural District .

Boardmember Lightner seconded. All in favor.

It was also noted by Boardmember DeMaio that with all the information that we can pull together it will be in the best interest of the JPA to sit down with the key elected officials of the City of San Diego to discuss all the information collected and come to a decision on funding.

Boardmember Roberts suggested that Chair Earnest speak to the River Park staff on the situation.

3. Member Agency Contribution Methodology Calculations -
4. **Recommendation:** Maintain the current member agency contribution levels

Due to the inconsistent calculation method Boardmember Lightner made a motion to have this item continued to a future meeting where it can be discussed and reviewed. It was suggested that this item be reviewed by the Budget Committee. Director Bobertz concurred that this is a very confusing issue that was agreed upon many years ago with City and County managers without a clear record of their reasoning. He said that the formula doesn't really work as a formula because if one agency's share goes up, there are no provisions for lowering other agencies' shares. Boardmember Diaz seconded. All in favor

### INFORMATION

5. Coordination Reports (oral)
  - a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- None
  - b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley - None
  - c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
  - d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

6. Status Reports

- a. River Park Projects

Deputy Director Carter said that an important project that we are working on is the Business Plan for the Lagoon Nature Center which we are working on with our business consultants. She said that construction on the River Park office and Sikes Adobe is proceeding and we hope to have a grand reopening at Sikes Adobe Farmstead in June 2010.

7. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Jacob said that the Board of Supervisors will be taking an action to support the proposed Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve Nature Center in February 2010. This area is where the San Dieguito and San Diego rivers merge and with the help of bond monies may be a valuable center for both entities. Anne Cooper said the Sikes Adobe is coming along very well and a tentative grand re-opening date of June 26 has been set. She said we have purchased the wallpaper and have it ready for application along with several pieces of furniture. Ms. Cooper said that we have a furnishing committee and the Friends of Sikes Adobe has about 11 members to date who will help with the ideas for fundraising and events. Boardmember Diaz was pleased to announce that Escondido Creek was selected by the Architectural Landscape students of Cal Poly Pomona as a project for them to work on. Boardmember Slater-Price announced that the State of the County address will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Qualcomm Hall.

8. Communications

- a. Letter from JPA to 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association re: Master Plan EIR

The next regular JPA meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010.

Chair Earnest adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

DRAFT