

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of June 19, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Slater-Price Chair
Olga Diaz
Don Mosier
Dave Roberts
Sherri Lightner
Carl DeMaio
Phil Pryde

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar
City of Solana Beach
City of San Diego
City of San Diego
Citizens Advisory Committee

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
John Carr	Del Mar resident
Bill Proffer	President, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
John Degenfelder	Ramona Resident
Cheryl Goddard	County Parks and Recreation Dept.
Dustin Fuller	22 nd District Agricultural Association
Frances Courtney	Self
Jim and Cheryl Coffee	photographer

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Slater-Price convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101

Boardmember Pryde introduced the CAC members in attendance as Bill Proffer and John Degenfelder.

Chair Slater-Price welcomed Don Mosier, JPA alternate, from the City of Del Mar.

Approval of Minutes April 17, 2009

Boardmember Pryde made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2009 and Boardmember Roberts seconded the motion. All in Favor

Executive Director's Report- Director Bobertz said that we had a great dedication ceremony for the David Kreitzer/ Lake Hodges Bridge and there were many interesting speakers. Mr. Bobertz introduced Mr. Jim Coffee who presented a photograph of the bridge opening ceremony that he and his wife Sheryl wanted to donate to the River Park. Mr. Coffee said that his pictures are images from around the park and he is now developing his skills in Geographic Imaging Systems (GIS) which may be useful in the River Park.

Chair Slater-Price thanked Jim and Cheryl Coffee for all their interest in the River Park. Director Bobertz said that we have had many articles on the opening of the bridge. He said there was an editorial published in the Union-Tribune on the need for SANDAG to approve a grant to the JPA for the second phase of the bridge with a cantilever that will extend the trail on West Bernardo. Mr. Bobertz praised Deputy Director Carter for her hard work in securing funds from different agencies for our important projects. An event in Del Mar that we participated in with 600 school children was a big success and yielded a very special book that has pictures of the day's events and thank you notes from the children. The book was passed around to all the Boardmembers to view.

Public Comment- Dustin Fuller from the 22nd District Agricultural Association requested that the JPA Board adopt a resolution to save the Del Mar Fairgrounds which is slated for a possible sale by the State of California. Supervisor Slater-Price said that it was not possible to take that action at today's meeting because it was not on the agenda, but she would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

CONSENT

1. Amend FY 08/09 Budget to Appropriate funds for Vehicle Purchase
Recommendation: *Amend FY 09/10 Budget to Remove planned vehicle purchase and Amend FY 08/09 to add planned vehicle purchase.*
2. Annual list of potential acquisition parcels in the unincorporated area
Recommendation: *By motion, recommend approval of the attached list of parcels for possible acquisition and grant application in the unincorporated area, and convey list to Board of Supervisors for their approval in compliance with Board of Supervisors Policy I-120*
3. Award contract for Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse Reconstruction
Recommendation: *Authorize Executive Director Dick Bobertz to execute contract for construction services for reconstruction of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse.*

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to approve the Consent items and Boardmember Pryde seconded. All in favor

ACTION AGENDA

4. San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Removal Mitigated Negative Declaration:
Recommendation: *Adopt resolution approving the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program for the San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Control Program.*

Shawna Anderson said that the River Park has been doing invasive species removal in the park for many years partnering with the County of San Diego and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. While permitting for small projects is sometimes not needed, we are often working on large projects in many different parts of the park and we felt that it is necessary to get a watershed-wide permit. A requirement for this type of permit is to do a CEQA analysis which explains the type of process that will be used for removal and monitoring. The MND went out for public review

with a deadline for comments due on June 12th, 2009. Ms. Anderson said that a few comment letters were received after the deadline from the California Fish and Game, County Parks and Recreation Department along with a letter from the City of San Diego Water Department with comments that were dealing with issues that were already being worked on. Ms. Anderson reviewed the resolution with the Board and read the language with comprehensive details of the MND. The board was asked to adopt the resolution approving the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program for the San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Control Program.

Boardmember Pryde asked if the herbicide would be implemented by hand and if the herbicides are biodegradable. Ms. Anderson said that the products used are approved by the California Fish and Game department. Ms. Anderson said that the control program will identify the source of the problem and eradicate at the starting point and follow the species downstream for elimination. Boardmember Mosier asked about the herbicides to make sure that they are safe for aquatic use. Ms. Anderson responded that they are approved by the EPA for that purpose.

Boardmember Roberts and Slater-Price thanked staff for their hard work on this project and Boardmember Roberts made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program for the San Dieguito Watershed Invasive Species Control Program. Boardmember DeMaio seconded. The Board voted 6 YES and 1 abstained (Boardmember Pryde).

Boardmember Lightner and DeMaio asked for copies of the comment letters from the agencies listed above.

5. Option Agreement with SANDAG for Lagoon Habitat Restoration

Recommendation: Approve Option Agreement with SANDAG for Habitat Restoration in San Dieguito Lagoon subject to final non-substantive changes, approved by General Counsel.

Deputy Director Carter said that Caltrans is planning to widen the I-5 and they need tidal wetland mitigation for their project. SANDAG is responsible for implementing the Transnet Environmental Program and will use funds from that program to acquire the rights to use JPA property and prepare plans for design and restoration along with environmental review on 100 acres of JPA property to tidal wetland and upland habitat. The option funds will pay for the River Park's landscaping/irrigation at the treatment ponds, and water quality monitoring, and creation of the 2.736-acre required mitigation project.

Counsel Brechtel said that we have met with Southern California Edison about their mitigation needs and there would be minor adjustments that would need to be discussed. Edison asked for peer review for the 100 acre mitigation restoration project.

Speaker Dustin Fuller asked the JPA Board to consider a consultation with the 22nd District Agricultural Association on plans for the mitigation sites because they back up to the four Least Turn nesting sites that they are responsible for and were concerned that these new plans may disturb their project.

Boardmember Roberts asked if there are any utility lines going through the property. Counsel Brechtel said that there may be issues because there are poles going north and south that will impact

the design of the project. In the future there will be a management plan and endowment for this project. Boardmember Roberts said staff should prepare a map of other available mitigation properties in the River Park to facilitate future mitigation opportunities.

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to approve the option for SANDAG to mitigate for habitat restoration at the wetlands subject to final approval of the General Counsel. Boardmember Lightner seconded. All in favor

6. El Camino Real Widening and Wildlife/Trail Undercrossing

Recommendation: Direct staff to send the attached letter supporting the Carmel Valley CPB's request regarding the El Camino Real Widening and Wildlife/Trail Crossing.

Shawna Anderson reported the undercrossing issue on El Camino Real has been before the board many times and a letter was sent to the Mayor of San Diego asking that the wildlife undercrossing be incorporated into the design. The response from the City of San Diego Planning Department was that the project was only to widen the road not build an undercrossing. We have heard recently that the undercrossing will be incorporated into the design of the road after all, but there is no funding to implement it, because it would cost 3.5 million dollars. Ms. Anderson said that there is no funding for the undercrossing at this time but if the El Camino Real road widening is done separate from the undercrossing it could cost in excess of \$850K extra. She said that the City has said that the bonds that were set aside for this project have expired and the road needs to be widened before funding runs out for the project so the draft letter today states that we are suggesting this project be processed as a City of San Diego project instead of a private development project allowing more time to get funds for the undercrossing. We are suggesting a joint grant effort to get the total funding for the undercrossing and widening so that it can be done simultaneously.

Chair Slater-Price asked if SANDAG could do a dollar swap so that this could be done at the same time. Boardmembers Lightner & DeMaio recused themselves on this item.

Boardmember Lightner recommended that the JPA send the letter to the City of San Diego Mayor and Councilmembers. Boardmember Roberts reiterated that we need to send all JPA letters to the head of the agency and then cc the councilmembers or staff.

Boardmember Pryde made a motion to direct staff to send the attached letter supporting the Carmel Valley CPB's request regarding the El Camino Real Widening and Wildlife/Trail Crossing. Boardmember Roberts seconded.

The vote was 5 Yes and 2 recused themselves (Sherri Lightner and Carl DeMaio)

7. No smoking Policy

Recommendation: Adopt Attached Policy

Director Bobertz said that at the April 2009 meeting the Board directed staff to draft a no smoking policy in the River Park. The CAC discussed this item and voted 12 to 4 in favor of the policy. Basically the policy says that the Board of Directors of the San Dieguito River Park JPA was

formed to plan, create, preserve and enhance the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Spark Park. Smoking has been determined to be a hazard to natural habitat due to the potential for causing wildfire and an aesthetic impact due to litter. The Policy reads: It is the policy of the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park JPA that smoking is not allowed within the Focused Planning Area (FPA) in habitat areas, trails and San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park facilities. This plan will be implemented by posting signs on the trails throughout the park.

Boardmember Lightner made a motion to approve the no smoking policy with the clarifying language that this policy specifically excludes private property. Boardmember Roberts seconded

Boardmember DeMaio asked for clarification on the sign implementation process. It is his understanding that the signs for no smoking will only go up when a new set of signs are installed and there will not be signs added to already posted areas.

The vote was 6 Yes 1 opposed (Carl DeMaio)

Boardmember Diaz said that there is a non-smoking group that has offered funding for signs to agencies who adopt non-smoking policies.

8. Donation Acceptance and Recognition Policy
Recommendation: Adopt Attached Policy

Deputy Director Carter reported that the JPA Board asked staff to come up with a donation or naming rights policy at the April 2009 meeting. She said that a couple of years ago the CAC had named a committee to come up with a draft policy for that purpose, and the committee of four members had diligently worked on it. Unfortunately the wildfires of 2007 that devastated the River Park pushed the policy off the agenda for more pressing matters. Recently the draft policy was reviewed again with some of the original members of the committee and a new addition and they fine tuned the policy. Although the committee was in favor of donations they had restrictions that would allow the River Park to decline the donation if appropriate. The plaques on each donation would be approved if the plaque was tastefully done with no religious affiliation or political views allowed. A large project being named in the park should be done with due consideration and how big of a facility or duration of the donation would be approved by the Board on a case by case level, with CAC recommendation. The CAC would be the review board for the proposed donation and take into consideration any objections from the public. .

Speaker Bill Proffer, SDRVC asked about the public/private partnerships and he asked if there is a large donation to the park would the River Park consider adding part of the donors name to the agency name on the facility. Mr. Proffer wanted to make sure that the policy did not dissuade large donations by putting limits on naming rights.

Chair Slater-Price said that the San Dieguito River Park JPA and has been around for 20 years and probably would not change or relinquish the name of the Park at any price.

Boardmember Pryde stated that when you want to change the name of a well established geographic feature you have to go through the U. S. Board of Geographic Names.

Boardmember Roberts made a motion to approve the draft Donation Acceptance and Recognition Policy with the addition of language to item 3c “including trails”. Boardmember DeMaio seconded.
All in favor

Boardmember DeMaio asked why the naming of the Lake Hodges Bridge for Mr. Kreitzer was not revealed to the public as it was done in return for a donation of money. Counsel Brechtel said that the naming of the bridge for Mr. Kreitzer was for years of service to the River Park and not strictly for the financial donation. Mr. DeMaio felt that the public should be informed when a donation is made for naming rights.

INFORMATION

9. Coordination Reports

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Bill Proffer said that the Conservancy received a grant for \$267,350 for land management from SANDAG Transnet Environmental Mitigation program for the eradication of pepperweed, biological monitoring and the purchase of a carrier vehicle and GIS device for the River Park.. Mr. Proffer said that the Santa Maria Canyon trip was a successful ESP program of guided hikes. A future trip would be a planned hike through Del Dios Gorge as soon as it is completed. It was announced that the Conservancy is going into high gear for fundraising this year due to shortfalls from regular sources.
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- None
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San DieguitoLagoon Committee- None

10. Status Reports

- a. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club- Executive Director Bobertz said that there are some articles distributed to the Board about the Polo Club issue and staff was directed to send a letter to the Mayor of San Diego on this issue. Staff was also directed to meet with officials to discuss the ongoing matter regarding the trail and on May 27th he and Supervisor Slater - Price met with members of the Natural Resources Committee and they were very interested in the issue and followed up with a site visit on June 11th. The attendance on June 11 included about a dozen City of San Diego staff who were able to see the problems facing the River Park first hand. Mr. Bobertz reported that on June 10th KSWB Fox News featured a segment on the problems at the Polo Fields along with an article in the Union Tribune which have forced the proponent to finally take action on requirements of the Polo Club lease. The Polo Club is to resubmit their new plans which include our trail segment and stream restoration in mid-July.

Chair Slater-Price expressed her gratitude to the City of San Diego staff who were very professional and took all aspects into consideration on the site visit.

- b. River Park Projects- Deputy Director Carter said that the Lagoon Nature Center conceptual design was funded by the Sempra Foundation and a contract was awarded to Roesling NakamuraTerada Architects with the landscape firm of Spurlock Poirier. Included in the team is an interpretative planner, Jenny Rigby, from the Acorn Group. She said the team has been visiting other nature centers in the area for the best ideas from each site to incorporate into the plans for our Nature Center. Ms. Carter said that there were many creative and beautiful centers seen and discussions were held with the occupants of the nature centers as to what they might have done differently if they had the chance to do it over again. The architect team is conducting special meetings to receive input from the Del Mar Lagoon Committee, JPA staff, the Project Review Committee of the CAC, Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley, SDRVC, and a specially formed committee with scientific and technical expertise. A public workshop is scheduled for the weekend of July 17th at which time the architects will develop several alternative concepts and identify a preferred alternative.

Director Bobertz said that we have provided SEMPRA Foundation with a list of naming opportunities for this potential research facility.

11. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Lightner said that she will be following up with the Natural Resources Committee, Boardmember Diaz reported that the Elfin Forest Nature Center will be opening tomorrow at 10 am. Ms. Diaz reported on a piece of property for acquisition called the Council Ridge Area which the City of Escondido hopes will be purchased for open space. There will be a fundraiser on 25th of June. The City of Escondido will be hosting a fair on June 27th called "Green Scene" at Grape Day Park. Ms. Diaz will be leading a bike ride to start the day off which will take place at Dog Park on East Valley Parkway and end up at Grape Day Park. Ms. Diaz said that she would like to see a booth for the River Park at this event. Boardmember Roberts said that he is pleased with the progress and cooperation that the North County Transit District is showing and now is paying a portion of the railroad bridge wrapping costs per an agreement reached with SCE. Mr. Roberts said that he attended the 22nd District Agricultural Association public forum on the potential sale of the fairgrounds and he was pleased that so many speakers agreed on one fact - that we need to save the fairgrounds. Mr. Roberts said he feels that the State of California does not have any legal authority to sell that property and furthermore the deed to the property says that it will go back to the family who donated the parcel years ago.
12. Communications - none
13. CLOSED SESSION- At 11:15 a.m., Counsel Brechtel stated that The Board will meet in closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(b)(1)(3) to confer with legal counsel regarding the Bernardo Mountain Utility Easement Access Issue. At 11:30 a.m., Counsel Brechtel announced that the Board met in closed session on the action previously disclosed and no reportable action was taken.

Chair Slater-Price adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director