

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of October 16, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Slater-Price Chair
Betty Rexford-Vice Chair
Olga Diaz
Richard Earnest
Dave Roberts
Carl DeMaio
Sherri Lightner
Phil Pryde
Becky Bartling

REPRESENTING

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

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Terry Gibbs	JPA Counsel
Dick Bobertz	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Leslie Woollenweber	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Tom Golich	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Gary Riest	22 nd District Agricultural Association

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 CAC members in attendance: Jacqueline Winterer, Freda Reid and Tom Golich.

Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2009

Boardmember Betty Rexford made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2009 and Boardmember Earnest seconded the motion. All in favor.

Executive Director's Report- Executive Director Bobertz said that the 22nd District Agricultural Association had been extremely helpful to the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the JPA when we were working on the habitat restoration project and trail construction at the edge of the fairgrounds west of the freeway. He turned to Tom Golich and Leslie Woollenweber with the Conservancy, who presented a plaque of appreciation to Becky Bartling and the Fairgrounds operations manager, Gary Reist.

Public Comment- None

ACTION

1. Appoint Nominating Committee for next year's Chair and Vice-Chair & Committees . Chair Slater-Price appointed Boardmembers Pryde, Roberts and Lightner to the committee and asked Boardmember Pryde to chair the committee. Motion to approve: Carl DeMaio, seconded by Richard Earnest. All in favor. Boardmember Lightner recused herself.
2. Award Contract for Sycamore Creek Office Reconstruction - Executive Director Bobertz reported that five bids were received, ranging from \$654,000 to \$902,000. The amount of insurance funding available is \$633,000. The low bidder is Robert Lackey Construction and Design. Director Bobertz explained that the contractor and architect are already looking at ways to trim costs to bring the bid price down to \$633,000. He said it was his recommendation that the Board authorize him to award the contract to the low bidder for \$633,000. Motion to approve: Betty Rexford, seconded by David Roberts. All in favor.
3. Award Contract for West Bernardo Bike Path and Cantilever. Deputy Director Susan Carter reported that sixteen bids were received, and because the bids were very competitive it would be possible to award all the components of the project. She explained that it was advertised in the bid documents that the low bid would be determined by the bids on the base bid (the cantilever structure). The low bidder on the base bid was Tri-Group Construction. She said that staff was recommending that the Board authorize staff to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, which would be Tri-Group Construction if they complete and submit all the required insurance and bond documents; if not, it would be the second lowest bidder. Boardmember DeMaio expressed concern about all the people parking along the road especially on the weekends. He asked whether the parking would still be available along the road after the project is completed. Deputy Director Carter said that, no, the bike path would be put in the area where the parking along the edge is now, and the parking would be in the parking lot at the top of the hill. Boardmember Diaz joined Boardmember DeMaio in being concerned about not having parking closer to the bridge, since it is such an attraction. Boardmember DeMaio said he would like to see the parking situation addressed and felt the need to vote against the recommendation until it was addressed. Boardmember Roberts asked if the item could be continued. Deputy Director Carter said that there is urgency to take action in order to finish construction by the March 15 bird nesting season deadline. She suggested that the Board could consider awarding the contract now and staff would ask the project engineers to explore the feasibility of modifying the project alignment to add parking spaces near the cantilever. Boardmember DeMaio said that even one or two ADA spaces would be a major improvement. Chair Slater-Price asked him if his office would help by working with City staff to look into traffic calming and other ways to address this issue on West Bernardo Drive. He agreed. Motion to approve staff recommendation as amended: Boardmember DeMaio, seconded by Boardmember Dave Roberts. All in favor.
4. Approve San Dieguito Lagoon Center Revised Version. Deputy Director Carter introduced architects Ralph Roesling and Rick Espana and landscape architect Leigh Kyle. Mr. Roesling presented a slideshow presentation that highlighted the differences between the original design (Scheme A, 7475 square feet) and the revised design, Scheme B, 6000 square feet. Scheme B is one story, much of it earth-sheltered. It has many sustainability features, such as photovoltaics, radiant floor heating, daylighting, and a solar chimney. It has a research and teaching lab that will be used for marine wildlife research. It has a

large multi-purpose room that can be used for classroom space or community meetings or lectures. Tom Golich, Chair of the Conservancy's Design Advisory Committee, spoke to the Board and explained that the Design Advisory Committee was a committee especially selected to represent expertise in science, teaching, and nature center operation. He emphasized that the proposed San Dieguito Lagoon Center offered the opportunity to tell the story that no one else can tell – the story of bringing a lagoon back to life. He said that the Design Advisory Committee had voted unanimously in favor of Scheme B.

Boardmember Dave Roberts moved approval of the staff recommendation that the Board approve the revised concept designs (Scheme B) for the San Dieguito Lagoon Center as presented today, direct architect team to prepare detailed cost estimates, direct staff to continue preparation of a Business Plan for ongoing operational and programming costs, and direct staff to pursue grants and other funding opportunities for the proposed Center. Boardmember Pryde seconded. All in favor.

5. El Camino Real Road Widening Project.

Recommendation: Support the City's plans to widen El Camino Real as designed including the replacement of the existing culvert with a single-span structure at the time the road is widened, provided that the new structure is designed so that it would also function as a wildlife undercrossing and potential trail undercrossing, with a dirt bottom (as opposed to concrete) and habitat restoration at the entrance and exit.

Environmental Planner Shawna Anderson reported that the City of San Diego is scheduled to approve the final plan to widen El Camino Real from Sea Country Lane to San Dieguito Road. The road is currently 2 lanes and will be widened to 4 lanes with a stamped concrete median, decomposed granite parkway, sidewalks, and bike lanes. The project is funded by a developer (DR Horton) to comply with a mitigation condition for Black Mountain Ranch and is being processed through the City for a Site Development Permit (SDP). JPA staff sent a comment letter to the City in late September 2009 in response to the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. The hearing is scheduled for October 28th, 2009 (Hearing Officer level). She explained that the JPA and the community had repeatedly called for a wildlife/trail undercrossing due to the width of the road, but had always been told that funding was not available. Recently funding had been identified in the Community Assessment District, and City staff said that the wildlife/trail undercrossing will be added as a condition of the project. She noted that a draft letter from the JPA to the City was in front of each Board member. The recommendation is to have Chair Slater-Price sign the letter. Motion to approve the staff recommendation: Board member Dave Roberts, Board member Betty Rexford seconded. Board member Sherri Lightner abstained.

INFORMATION

6. Marine Life Protection Status - Executive Director Bobertz referred to the maps in the packet and handouts at each member's place. He noted that in all options, the San Dieguito

Lagoon was proposed as a State Marine Reserve. He noted that Solana Beach, Del Mar and Encinitas were supporting Option 3.

7. Coordination Reports – none
8. Status Reports – River Park Projects: Deputy Director Carter reported that the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is hosting a fundraiser on October 24 on the newly completed Del Dios Gorge Trail. She said that the River Park was waiting to hold a grand opening event until the County Water Authority project that is blocking a portion of the adjacent trail is completed in the Spring.
9. Jurisdictional Status Reports – Becky Bartling reported that the EIR for the Fairgrounds Master Plan is complete and has been released for public review, with comments due January 8th. Boardmember Olga Diaz reported that the Escondido Creek Conservancy has opened an office on Grand & Broadway, and is having an opening reception on October 22 from 5-7 p.m. She said that they will learn in early November if they have been awarded a grant for enhancement on the Escondido Creek.

Chair Slater-Price adjourned the meeting at 11:35

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director