

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of October 17, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Roberts - Chair
Pam Slater-Price Vice-Chair
Dick Daniels
Crystal Crawford
Betty Rexford
Dianne Jacob
Scott Peters
Phil Pryde
Becky Bartling

REPRESENTING

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

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Ken Cariffe	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
Jason Lopez	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Leslie Woollenweber	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Rich Geisler	J. Whalen Associates
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Freda Reid	San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association
Bill Proffer	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Jessica Norton	County Department of Parks and Recreation

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Roberts convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101

Boardmember Pryde introduced CAC members in attendance as Jacqueline Winterer, Freda Reid, and John Degenfelder.

Approval of Minutes September 19, 2008

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2008, Boardmember Pryde seconded the motion. All in favor.

Executive Director's Report-

- a. Quarterly Work Program Executive Director Bobertz pointed out 3 new opportunities for the River Park this year. First, a meeting was set up by the JPA Board Chair with Sempra representatives (Sempra pays for 20% of the wetland restoration project.) In the meeting, Sempra wanted to know how to create community interface with the public on this lagoon project. We are now applying to Sempra for funding to cover a concept architectural study on an interpretive center which will cost about \$60,000. We are so pleased with this opportunity because they have a \$20 million fund in a foundation for these types of projects and hopefully they will be interested in funding an interpretive center in a subsequent phase. Boardmember Peters suggested that we approach Sempra also regarding the undergrounding of the telephone lines at this point. Second, we have received an offer from the Mountain Bike Association to work on a 300-foot-long steep slope in the Del Dios Gorge saving the River Park approximately \$20,000 in time and materials. Third, we have received a five-year SANDAG grant for fire recovery in the amount of \$342,000.
- b. Ranger Report (oral)- Jason Lopez, Resources and Trails Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation on the first anniversary of the fire that devastated the River Park.. Mr. Lopez showed a presentation of the before and after shots of the trails in the fire damaged areas and discussed the habitat and bird nesting areas that are recovering from this disaster.

Ranger Lopez answered questions asked by the Boardmembers concerning materials being used to prevent some future damage. The Boardmembers were appreciative of the presentation and thanked Mr. Lopez and the other rangers for their hard work.

Leslie Woollenweber from the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy explained about the grants that they have received in the last few months for weed removal and planting to help the River Park in their efforts.

Public Comment- None

CONSENT

1. Adopt Resolution Applying to State Parks for Recreational Trails Program Grant for Del Dios Gorge Trail
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Applying for Recreational Trails program Grant Funds.
2. Adopt Resolution Applying to the Resources Agency for River Parkway Grant for Del Dios Gorge Trail and Eucalyptus Removal
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Applying for Proposition 84 River Parkway Grant Funds.
3. Adopt Revised Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Mission Statement
Recommendation: Adopt Revised Mission Statement

Boardmember Peters made a motion to approve all the consent items and Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor.

ACTION

4. Appoint Nominating Committee for JPA Board Chair and Vice- Chair
Recommendation: Appoint Nominating Committee for next year's Chair and Vice-Chair & Committees.

Chair Roberts made a motion to recommend appointing a committee of Boardmembers Jacob, Earnest and Pryde to serve on the nominating committee. Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. Chair Roberts asked Boardmember Pryde to chair the committee. All in favor.

5. Award Grading contract for Cloverdale Creek Mitigation Site
Recommendation: Award construction contract to lowest, responsible, responsive bidder.
Shawna Anderson said that Cloverdale Creek is located in San Pasqual and was a mitigation site for two River Park projects, the Mule Hill Trail and Lake Hodges Bridge. As part of this mitigation we are required to restore wetland habitat and will be doing this along with the City of San Diego Water Department. This project that we have entered into with the City of San Diego Water Department requires a 5 year mitigation and monitoring effort and will be on the City of San Diego docket for approval in the near future. We are getting ready to start construction and we are recommending that the board approve one of the two bids that were received for the grading portion of the project. Volunteers will be doing the planting and our ranger staff will be working on the area also. The lowest responsible bidder was Trinity Grading for \$60,513.00 which will include a silt fence. This project will create 1 1/3 acres of wetland habitat in this disturbed area. Board member Peters made a motion to approve awarding the contract to Trinity Grading and Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor.

6. Fenton Ranch-Conservation Easement, Management and Endowment Agreement
Recommendation: Adopt attached resolution accepting a Conservation Easement Deed over approximately 86.33 acres within the Fenton Ranch Conservation Bank and authorize the Executive Director to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

Director Bobertz noted items 6, 7 and 8 on today's agenda will mean recurring income for the River Park and this will be very helpful at our next budget year.

Deputy Director Carter said that a conservation bank has been created for the 302 acre portion of the former Fenton Ranch property located east of Santa Maria Creek. The conservation bank will connect the San Pasqual Valley and our trail system to the Ramona Grasslands thus it is a key link for watershed, wildlife corridor and trail connection purposes. As part of this action today the owner is transferring a conservation easement to the JPA on 90 acres of the conservation bank, and providing an endowment of \$318,000 plus a first year start up of \$14,334 for the River Park staff to manage the property in accordance with the Habitat Management Plan. It is intended that a conservation easement and endowment fund will be created for the balance of the property in the next year. Ms.

Carter recommended to the JPA Board acceptance of the conservation easement, habitat management plan and endowment agreement.

Boardmember Slater Price made a motion to approve the staff recommendation for the Fenton Ranch property and Boardmember Daniels seconded. All in favor.

7. Fenton North- Conservation Easement, Management and Endowment Agreement
Recommendation: Approve the attached Conservation Easement Deed and Mitigation and Property Management Agreement for approximately 3- acres of habitat property in the San Pasqual Valley.

Deputy Director Carter said that item 7 (and 8) is for property on the north side of the San Pasqual Valley. Two developers who need mitigation credits have received permission from the Resource Agencies to create wetlands on this property and are buying a conservation easement from the owner over 3 acres each. The conservation easement will be transferred to the JPA, and the JPA will be responsible for managing the property under the terms of the Habitat Management Plan utilizing an endowment in the amount of \$53,000 from each of the mitigators. We will also be receiving additional funds to drill a well on the property.

Boardmember Rexford made a motion to approve the Conservation Easement Deed and Management and Endowment Agreement. Boardmember Jacob seconded. All in favor

8. Fenton North- Conservation Easement, Management and Endowment Agreement
Recommendation: Approve the attached Conservation Easement Deed and Mitigation and Property Management Agreement and direct the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to complete the transaction on approximately 3 acres of habitat property in San Pasqual Valley.

See discussion above (#7)

Boardmember Peters made a motion to accept the Conservation Easement, Management and Endowment agreement. Boardmember Daniels seconded. All in favor.

Boardmember Slater-Price commended staff for optimizing management opportunities on these properties and make a difference in the area along with adding additional income for the River Park.

INFORMATION

9. Coordination Reports
 - a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Leslie Woollenweber from the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy gave a PowerPoint presentation on projects made possible by grant funding they have received this year. Ms. Woollenweber discussed the north bank restoration project that was partially funded by Boardmember Slater-Price. This is a stretch of disturbed area which has been restored with the help of many volunteers which involved removal of large pieces of metal and cement with many pounds of trash. A grant of \$20,000 from SCWRP (Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project) revegetated the area. The lagoon

trail was discussed and the before and after pictures were shown. Ms. Woollenweber gave a special thank you to the 22nd District Agricultural District for their efforts including payment of permits, disposal of heavy debris along with labor and equipment to clear some of the area. The Ag District also provided reclaimed water for the new planting areas, a crew to grade for the new link of the trail, fence rails and capped the trail with DG. A thank you was given to Marathon for watering the area for us and the Del Mar Rotary installed lodge pole fence along the trail. Crest Canyon is maintained by the Conservancy for the City of San Diego and many volunteers have given their time to do significant clearing and planting in this area. The Conservancy has helped the Sierra Club launch The Friends of Crest Canyon group that will take over the maintenance of the canyon for the Conservancy so their volunteers can move on to other projects in the lagoon which will include weeding and nesting sites. After the fire, the Conservancy helped with 15 sites cleanup of metal debris including our burned tractor and excavator. They formed an emergency Trail Patrol after the fires to protect the public and spot areas of concern in the park.. A local church group has adopted the Highland Valley Trail and has been doing some maintenance work along with the group that has agreed to oversee the lagoon Boardwalk to keep it clean. The Lake Hodges Trail at the north shore has been adopted also and will help the rangers keep the area clean.

Becky Bartling thanked Leslie for all her cooperation and hard work at the lagoon area.

Director Bobertz noted that the Conservancy supplied the River Park with a new FPA map.

- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Jacqueline Winterer was pleased to say that the long awaited Grand Ave Bridge is close to completion. The Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley are asking the JPA Board for permission to organize the Grand Opening event at the site when the project is completed.
- c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None
- d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

10. Status Reports

- a. Fire Recovery- Deputy Director Carter said that we have received all the obligations from FEMA in the amount of \$819,000 and we will be starting on many of the projects in the next few months. Ms. Carter said that we need to get the work done before the bird nesting season begins February 15th.
- b. River Park Projects
Deputy Director Carter reported that she gave a presentation to The American Society of Civil Engineers about the miles of trail and bridges and the Treatment Ponds that are under construction. Ms. Carter showed a map of the trails in the west side of the park and on up to Volcan Mountain. In the lagoon area the Treatment Ponds will filter out the runoff from the shopping center through the series of graded ponds that will slowly filter out the residue and eventually deposit the clean water into the wetland. Ms. Carter said that the Lake Hodges Bridge is in progress again and will be the longest stressed ribbon bridge in the world. The contractor is installing the cables and will be stringing the panels in a few weeks.

11. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Crawford reported on a meeting about the efforts of Edison and NCTD along with the City of Del Mar on the work that needs to be done on the western end with removal of the sand plug and the wrapping the wood pilings for the railroad bridge. It is the hope of all involved that this work is done by next May.

Becky Bartling reported the 22nd DAA received an approval for the force main and this will go out to bid in the near future.

12. Communications-

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 11:15. The next scheduled meeting is Friday, November 21st.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT