

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of October 17, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Roberts - Chair  
Don Mosier – Vice Chair  
Jim Cunningham  
Dave Zito  
Olga Diaz  
Dianne Jacob  
Mark Kersey  
Jacqueline Winterer  
Becky Bartling

**REPRESENTING**

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

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Yin Ho	JPA Counsel
Susan Carter	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Mark Ochenduszko	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Brenda Miller	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Tiffany Vinson	Councilmember Kersey's Staff
Sachiko Kohatsu	Supervisor Roberts' Staff
Allison Don	Councilmember Lightner's Staff
Jeff Barnouw	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Beth Broussalian	St. John Garabed Armenian Church
Harry Krikorian	St. John Garabed Armenian Church
Kathi Riser	Atlantis Group (St. John Garabed Armenian Church)
Cheryl Goddard	San Diego County Parks
Margaret Schlesinger	League of Women Voters (CAC)
Bill Michalsky	Sierra Club (CAC)
Trish Boaz	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Adam Wilson	Supervisor Jacob's Staff
Phil Pryde	Citizen

**Introduction and Announcements**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Boardmember Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014, Boardmember Zito seconded the motion. Yes votes: Mosier, Diaz, Cunningham and Zito. No votes: 0, Abstain: Winterer and Jacob, Absent: Roberts, Lightner and Kersey.

**Executive Director's Report**

Interim Executive Director Ochenduszko presented each of the board members with a copy of the recently published San Dieguito River Park Revenues, Expenditures and Accomplishments Report (1989-2014). He said the report was written by Deputy Director Carter and is a fabulous overview of the River Park. He reported that good progress is being made with the revisions to the JPA agreement. He also announced that the Sikes Spooktacular is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sikes Adobe. There is more information on the website.

**(Agenda items were discussed out of the agenda order)**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA**

4. St. John Garabed Armenian Church (Page 13)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss and provide JPA staff with direction on whether to take any further action regarding this project.

Shawna Anderson presented the item. She explained that the board-approved comment letter dated April 14, 2014 and EIR responses to our comment letter are in the agenda packet. This project is scheduled for approval at the City Planning Commission Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and will also require a permit from the Coastal Commission. She said that at the CAC meeting, although there was no quorum, there was considerable discussion about the project, and CAC Chair Golich asked that this item be placed on the JPA agenda. Ms. Anderson said that it appears that there is limited ability on our part to follow-up on points already made in the Board's EIR comments, especially in light of the letter of approval sent by the Carmel Valley Planning Board. She said that staff is seeking direction from the Board whether a letter should be sent to the Planning Commission, or should someone be delegated to attend the Planning Commission, or, given the JPA is on record with its previous comments, no further action should be taken.

Public comment

Margaret Schlesinger said she has been involved with this project for many years. Activity will be adjacent to the wildlife corridor in Gonzales Canyon. She urged the board to approve alternatives 1 & 2 in staff report. Beth Broussalian representing St. John Garabed Armenian Church looks forward to moving their church to a new bigger facility to meet the needs of the community. She is asking for decision of no further action. Harry Krikorian, St John Armenian Church, has respect for the JPA and CAC groups and the work we do. He expects church to be there for many generations. He and the church members have respect for habitat and environment. He requests the board to take no further action on this project.

Chair Roberts arrived 9:51 a.m.

Kathi Riser for Atlantis Planning Group stated that the two wildlife agencies approved the MSCP boundary change and are pleased for the opportunity of mitigation in the Gonzales Canyon area. She stated that the church will have purchased 13 extra acres of open space that are not for their mitigation and will be available for restoration mitigation for other projects. Ms. Riser stated that the church will only be visible from a couple of locations at the River Park. Hopes that this project can move forward and asks that the Board take no further action. Jeff Barnouw, representing Friends of San Dieguito River Valley, asked the Board to do something to communicate the CAC and JPA point of view. Mr. Barnouw stated that the building process will harm wildlife and asked the Board to please not give up. Bill Michalsky representing

Sierra Club, feels that the issue is scope and size of sanctuary and that it will be visible from many places in the River Park. Mr. Michalsky stated that the size could be adjusted and placement could be moved and asks the JPA take a position before the Planning Commission to modify the project's design.

Board discussion:

Boardmember Cunningham said his concern was how the project would affect the Gonzales Canyon wildlife corridor. He does not feel the project would be a significant visual impact to our park. He continued on to state that as he sees it, our goal is to protect the corridor, protect the wildlife and protect the plants. He wants to make sure we have an unimpeded ability to continue our trail through that area and preserve Gonzales Canyon. He stated that he did see some changes from the original plan (building color, setback and driveway entrance) that had been made. Boardmember Cunningham recommends that staff attend the City planning commission hearing to confirm a few assertions, such as that the Church has no further intentions of building on the rest of their property, and commitment to the trail easement. He would love to see Ms. Schlesinger and members of our staff show up at the Planning Commission meeting at the City to confirm our concerns and to get firm commitments on the future of Gonzales Canyon, but he said he is not inclined to continue with demands and letters.

Boardmember Winterer thinks the church will have a visual impact and suggests it be relocated to the south side of property.

Boardmember Diaz thinks that wherever they put the church it will be seen. She is satisfied with their efforts and feels they are willing to support the habitat and be good neighbors. She recommends no further action. She is comfortable having staff attend the hearing, but not speaking out against the project and not sending further letters. Vice-Chair Mosier asked for confirmation that the church does plan to plant native landscaping around parking area and suggests that we send staff to the Planning Commission hearing to try and reinforce these types of details.

Boardmember Jacob stated that there is no need to send another letter repeating the concerns we have already expressed in writing. She requested that the motion be specific in terms of what kind of commitment the JPA is interested in nailing down at the hearing.

Boardmember Cunningham made a motion and Boardmember Diaz seconded to have staff attend the Planning Commission meeting to confirm that the Church's commitments of the habitat restoration, and their stated intent not to further develop the property beyond the initial 4 acres, the granting of the 25-foot trail easement to the City and that the remaining property will be available for mitigation are all documented in the conditions of approval, but not to oppose or speak out against the project.

Yes votes: Roberts, Mosier, Jacob, Diaz, Cunningham and Zito. No vote: Winterer. Abstain 0. Absent: Lightner and Kersey.

Chair Roberts assumed chairmanship of the meeting from Vice-Chair Mosier.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

**CONSENT**

1. Contract with Interim Executive Director Mark Ochenduszko (Page3)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve attached contract.

Vice-Chair Mosier made the motion and Boardmember Diaz seconded to approve the attached contract with Interim Executive Director Mark Ochenduszko. . All in favor. Yes: Roberts, Mosier, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Cunningham and Zito, No vote 0, Abstain 0, Absent: Lightner and Kersey.

3. Lagoon Boardwalk – California Coastal Commission Hearing Date (Page 10)

Deputy Director Carter provided an update to the Board’s previous action requesting the California Coastal Commission to hold their meeting to discuss the potential removal of Boardwalk in San Diego, which would be in March. She said that staff has been informed that the Coastal Commission will probably put this issue on the docket for the meeting in Orange County in January. The reason is that they want the South Overflow Lot to be restored and this cannot be done until they make the decision about the Boardwalk. We prefer this issue be on the agenda in March so that our local people could speak at the meeting.

Interim Executive Director Ochenduszko said he spoke with Supervisor Greg Cox, Coastal Commission member, and asked him to request that this item be on the agenda for the March meeting in San Diego.

#### **INFORMATION**

6. Park Project Status (oral)

- a. Ranger Station/Temporary Ranger Station

Shawna Anderson reported that we have received our City approval of the Ranger Station at the Lagoon. We have our application into the Coastal Commission. There is a temporary office in place in the meantime.

- b. Pamo Valley Trail

Shawna Anderson reported that we have a permit application into the City. Shawna has had general conversations with the City Project Manager about it and is waiting for their staff comments..

- c. Founders Tribute

Deputy Director Carter reported that the committee has had one meeting. The list is very long of the people that have had a role to play in the creation of the San Dieguito River Park. The committee feels that the most appropriate location for the Tribute is somewhere at the lagoon, preferably the same property where the Birdwing is located. The Tribute will recognize all of the work that all the founders have done. The committee discussed many conceptual forms of a tribute, including a walkway with video/audio clips, and may utilize the existing boulders on the site. There will be more meetings on the subject.

- d. Interpretive Center at the Lagoon

Deputy Director Carter reported that the JPA board requested that this issue be taken back to the CAC for another look. One concern that had been raised by members of the public was that the building was too big. The item was on the October CAC agenda however there was no quorum. Staff went back to look at the process that was followed in 2009 to get to where we are now. There were reasons why the public design process that the JPA utilized had resulted in this size and type of structure. She said that it is important to make sure that as many people as possible are on board to make sure that this facility is what is needed and wanted.

e. Santa Ysabel Interpretive Center

Boardmember Jacob introduced the concept stating that the location is near where the San Diego River and the San Dieguito River converge and that a few years ago the County was able to get about 80 acres in the Santa Ysabel area. Ms. Jacob reported that this is a capital project that has been in the works for quite some time, that she is very interested in getting money for and wants to keep on the agenda. She said she would like input from this board and CAC to have this project be what we all want it to be and what it can be. Brian Albright presented a handout to the boardmembers and displayed a concept design. He reported that the concept was developed in 2010. Mr. Albright stated that they have been unsuccessful in acquiring grants to this point and are now looking at federal funding opportunities. The next step in the process will be an environmental analysis at a cost of approximately \$300,000 for a full EIR and they are seeking funding now. The total project cost is estimated at \$7 - \$7.5 million. Boardmember Jacob spoke about the opportunity for access to our trails and wants this project to fit into Volcan Mountain, Santa Ysabel Preserve and many open space areas. Boardmember Jacob stated that the concept needs to be different from the "old store front" and it should be a gateway and Nature Center. Mr. Albright said it is the gateway to Anza Borrego, San Diego River and Coast to Crest Trail. This project is at the top of the list of priority projects. The building is proposed to be 6000 square feet.

Chair Roberts left at 10:30 AM

Boardmember Kersey arrived 10:30 AM

Vice-Chair Mosier took meeting over.

2. Date/Time of Regular JPA Meetings (Page 9)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Consider alternative dates/times for Future Regular JPA Meetings

Interim Executive Director Ochenduszko reported that the meetings were previously held every other month and that during this year the meetings have been scheduled every month. He recommends that we continue holding monthly meetings for at least the next 3-4 months.

Mr. Ochenduszko said that the current meeting time of 9:30 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month conflicts with the SANDAG Transportation Committee meeting. Interim Executive Director Ochenduszko suggested continuing to hold the JPA meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, but move the meeting to 11:00 AM rather than the current time of 9:30 AM.

Boardmember Kersey made the motion and Boardmember Diaz seconded to leave the meeting day the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, every month, at the time of 11:00 AM

Yes votes: Mosier, Jacob, Winterer, Diaz, Cunningham, Zito and Kersey, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, Absent: Lightner and Roberts.

5. Status of Multi-Agency Discussions re JPA Revised Agreement (oral)

Deputy Director Carter was pleased to report that the multi-agency working group has produced a set of recommendations for the revised JPA agreement. She said that the entire working group had worked very hard on this process. She specifically complimented Brian Albright on his leadership in initiating and facilitating the working group's efforts. Next Wednesday the JPA's Sub-Committee of Vice-Chair Mosier, Chair Roberts, Boardmember Kersey, City of San Diego staff, JPA staff and attorney will attend a meeting to discuss the recommendations and how to incorporate them into a revised JPA agreement. After that meeting the intention is to bring this item back to the Board. She said that staff has been working on a separate issue with the City of San Diego regarding a Master Trails Agreement that lists every trail in City jurisdiction that JPA manages. The list will show who has responsibility and what the maintenance standards are. This is consistent with one of the items being discussed in the JPA agreement with the City. The hope is that both issues could move forward for approval at the City at the same time.

7. Coordination Reports (oral)

a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Trish Boaz reported that the River Valley Fest raised almost \$64,000 in matching funds to the Del Mar Riverpath County of San Diego Grant of \$150,000. The net profit for the Conservancy's operations was \$34,000 for conservation, education and recreation programs. She said that on September 20<sup>th</sup>, SDRVC and SDRP participated in the Coastal Clean-up event. Volunteers removed iceplant on Conservancy property at the Grand Avenue Bridge and North Beach in Del Mar. The Conservancy Board approved spending up to \$77,000 to conduct a feasibility study of a crossing of the San Dieguito River near the Morgan Run Golf Course. Current plans are to connect the Lagoon Trail through the Polo Fields Trail, but it then dead-ends. The proposed bridge would extend the trail further to the east. They will be looking for the best location, the best type of facility and what is the feasibility to do this. This will add another segment to the Coast to Crest Trail along with the Pamo trail. The next Exec Trek will be January at Highland Valley Trail. Save the date March 21, Plein Air – Legacy of the Land, California Center for the Arts, Escondido. The paintings will be on exhibit March 22 – May 3.

b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley

Jacqueline Winterer said that the Friends will have a meeting Monday. They will be asked to pay for a new edition of the lagoon bird pamphlet. Ms. Winterer said she will lead a history-oriented field trip of the south side of the Lagoon. She will discuss the Del Mar man and she has historical items she will share. The field trip will be November 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM.

c. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation

No Report.

d. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee

No Report.

8. Jurisdictional Status Reports

Boardmember Bartling reported that 2500 tons of trash was collected during the Coastal Clean Up, including some unusual items. The 2015 fair theme will be “A fair to remember - Celebration of World’s Fairs and Balboa Park.”

Boardmember Cunningham announced a Poway City Council November agenda item of a habitat restoration fund to identify properties to purchase. The fund has \$700,000 and has been there for 15 years. He stated that someone may want to attend with suggestions.

Vice-Chair Mosier stated that there is a hiccup in the dredging of the Lagoon. NCTD objected to the plan because the dredging will change the level of the river and this may cause damage to the train trestle. The dredging project is on hold until issue resolved.

Deputy Director Carter stated that it had been 6 years since the last issue of the Revenue, Expenditures and Accomplishments Report was done and stressed that it should be done every 2 years because so much happens during that length of time that it makes it difficult to summarize everything. She also said that the new report has been uploaded to the website.

9. Communications

1. Letter from Special District Risk Management Authority, 9/8/14 (Page 44)

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED JPA MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 21, 2014 at 11:00 AM

Vice Chair Mosier adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM

These minutes approved by Board Action

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Date Executive Director