

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of March 21, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT

REPRESENTING

Dave Roberts - Chair	City of Solana Beach
Pam Slater-Price Vice-Chair	County of San Diego
Richard Earnest	City of Del Mar
Dianne Jacob	County of San Diego
Phil Pryde	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
Anne Gardner	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Freda Reid	Del Mar Lagoon Committee
Maeve Hanley	County of San Diego
John Degenfelder	Ramona Resident
Henry Abarbanel	Councilmember Del Mar

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Roberts convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101. The meeting was convened late waiting for a quorum to arrive.

Boardmember Pryde introduced the CAC members in attendance as, John Degenfelder, Anne Gardner and Freda Reid.

Approval of Minutes February 15, 2008

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2008, Boardmember Earnest seconded the motion. All in favor

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bobertz spoke about the fire recovery efforts stating that we have been working very hard to get many of the trail segments open. Mr. Bobertz said that we lost about 12 bridges but that the process has been made easier with the cooperation of the FEMA representative who has diligently written up all of our damaged areas into small projects. These small projects will allow us to receive funding from the state to start rebuilding. We should be receiving funding in the near future. Mr. Bobertz said that we have been fortunate to have some volunteers from the University of Virginia and Minnesota who came on an "Alternative Spring Break" program where they participate in a volunteer project instead of the usual party atmosphere. He explained that the JPA had received a grant for the Del Dios Gorge Trail for

\$200,000 and had used all but \$40,000 when the fires hit southern California causing the River Park rangers to divert their efforts to other areas. This grant had a timeline and is expiring in a few months so we asked for an extension which was denied leaving us a shortfall in our funding for that trail. A letter to Senator Christine Kehoe was sent by staff about the situation and she has written a letter for us to the Senate Budget Committee requesting re-appropriation of the funds for another year. Mr. Bobertz reported that we spent our annual "Staff Retreat" at the Goodan Ranch in Poway. The ranch burned down in the Cedar fires in 2003 and the new office has been constructed that is state of the art. We do hope to model our new office with some of the ideas that were used in their green building.

Public Comment- None

ACTION AGENDA

1. **Release and Distribute Annual Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007**

Director Bobertz stated that the audit was lengthy but he pointed to the synopsis on page 44 where the auditors noted that "no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses." Boardmember Jacob made a motion to release and distribute the audit and Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor

2. **Resolution Approving Application for Community Enhancement Funds**

Recommendation: Adopt the attached draft resolution approving the filing of an application for County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program funding for the County's 2008-09 fiscal Year.

Deputy Director Carter said that this year we applied for something different which is to hire a consultant to prepare a plan to raise the River Park profile to increase the public's knowledge of the park. We anticipate the plan would encompass consistent and prominent signage throughout the park, a consistent media message, and more. The consultant would work with the CAC and SDRVC as well as the Board. Boardmember Pryde made a motion to approve the resolution for Community Enhancement funds and Boardmember Earnest seconded. All in favor

3. **Public Hearing on Acquisition of Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse;**

Recommendation: Approve the purchase of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead as described below and in the publication notice, and authorize the Executive Director to execute all related documents to complete the transaction.

Chair Roberts announced that the Public Hearing would begin. Deputy Director Carter said that this Public Hearing is an opportunity for the public to speak on the JPA's pending purchase of the property known as the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. The sale of this property was advertised three times in the newspaper as required. There was no public comment on the sale. Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the purchase and all related issues on this transaction. Boardmember Pryde seconded. All in favor.

4. Comments on Sunrise Powerlink EIR

Recommendation; Direct staff to send attached comment letter in response to the Sunrise Powerlink EIR/EIS.

Councilmember Henry Abarbanel from Del Mar said that the SANDAG Energy Group was asked to evaluate the Sunrise Powerlink EIR. Mr. Abarbanel discussed the route of each of the proposed lines and one of the cost estimates being a million dollars a mile. The demand for the use is not an issue as the growth of Southern California is on the rise but the alternatives that are environmentally friendly and cost effective are by far the favored. Mr. Abarbanel described a north/south alternative, the LEAPS alternative that would not use the Imperial Substation (and therefore would be less of a security risk than the other alternatives which do use the Imperial Substation, since the existing transmission lines also go through the Imperial Substation). The north/south alternative is environmentally superior to the proposed project since it does not go through Anza-Borrego State Park or Santa Ysabel.

Boardmember Jacob thanked Mr. Abarbanel for his work on this project. She said that other groups supported the Sunrise Powerlink before the EIR came out and felt that this was irresponsible and they should reevaluate their position based on the analysis in the EIR.

Boardmember Jacob made a motion recommending that the sentence in the draft comment letter, "The JPA Board has not taken a position on the overall Sunrise Powerlink project because the JPA's jurisdiction is limited to the San Dieguito River Park Focused Planning Area (FPA)" be stricken. The motion also included that the CPUC should specifically look at the Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano alternative, and that the CPUC should give more emphasis to home generation alternatives. Boardmember Slater-Price seconded. All in favor.

INFORMATION

5. **Coordination Reports (oral)**

- a. San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy- Executive Bobertz said that the Conservancy Board met in the San Dieguito River Park offices, and that he had welcomed them by reading the portion of the minutes where Boardmember Jacob praised the Conservancy for their continued support.
- b. Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- Anne Gardner said that they were coordinating with the River Park on the bus tours of the Wetland area before the fires but were not able to manage the scheduling when the River Park was focused on fire recovery. Ms. Gardner said that there has been so much demand for tours that they have been working with other groups to educate the public on the project.
- c. San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- Freda Reid said that the Lagoon Committee is a standing committee from the City of Del Mar. It was formed in 1974 and they have 9 members and has well informed past members who discuss any issues of interest in the lagoon area. Ms. Reid said that they have direct connections to the JPA, CAC and Agricultural District Board and monitor the expansion of I-5 and impacts on the lagoon.

The committee considers EIRs and works with many other organizations to participate in watershed issues and find a way to extend the trail system to Crest Canyon.

Boardmember Slater-Price thanked Ms. Reid and her organization for all their hard work. She suggested that they closely monitor the rail stop and railroad bridge issues in Del Mar.

- d. Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- Deputy Director Carter said that Martha Baker from the Volcan Mountain Preserve sent an email to her stating that Philip Rutherford has signed an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to sell the last 1,649 acres of the Rutherford Ranch on Volcan Mountain. The original parcel was 1800 acres and the owner will retain 151 acres of the parcel.

6. Status Reports

a. River Park Projects

- i. Fire Recovery- Mr. Bobertz said that he had already reported on this subject.
 - ii. Lake Hodges Bike Ped Bridge- Deputy Director Carter said that we have been granted an extension to continue working on the bridge until May 15th. The temporary trestle built to extend to the two piers on the lake will be partially removed exposing the piers. We will continue construction in September.
 - iii. Coastal Trail/Treatment Ponds- Deputy Director Carter said that we have stopped construction in some areas due to the bird nesting that the biological monitors identified at the site. We are not able to put in the bridge over the drainage crossing west of the freeway or continue on west side of the treatment ponds until August 2008. Director Bobertz said that San Dieguito Planning group sent a letter about their concerns on the power lines on Via de la Valle. Mr. Bobertz said that the JPA Board took a position previously and asked the Mayor of San Diego to look into this matter.
 - iv. Del Dios Gorge Trail- This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - v. Pamo Valley Trail- Deputy Director Carter said that Pamo Valley was burned in the October 2007 fires and this impacted the lessee. Ms. Carter said that since the lessee and the City of San Diego are negotiating a new lease their plan is to carve the trail alignment out of the new lease. The City of San Diego wants us to address issues about the trailhead and trail management which we will be responding to in the near future.
 - vi. Heritage Trail Link- Deputy Director Carter said that this is a very short part of the trail but we have to address the issues of wetlands and the matter of crossing Highland Valley Road safely. We will be applying for a site development permit from the City of San Diego.
- b. Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club- Mr. Bobertz said that we do not have anything new at this time but we hope to have some news in shortly.

7. Jurisdictional Status Reports- None
8. Communications
 - a. Letter to City of San Diego from JPA re River Park Equestrian Center
 - b. Letter to Coastal Commission from JPA re River Park Equestrian Center

Director Bobertz reported that there is an article on the River Park today in the "Solana Beach Sun" written by Chair Dave Roberts.

Chair Roberts said that Bob Moore and Tom Golich made a presentation to the Solana Beach City Council about the River Park.

Director Bobertz asked that every one put on their calendar May 10th for the San Dieguito River Park's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day that will be held at Chair Dave Roberts home in Solana Beach.

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 11:20.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director

DRAFT