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**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of July 21, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joe LaCava - Chair  
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair  
Christian Garcia  
Greg Kazmer, Alternate for Joel Anderson  
Jill MacDonald  
Brian Pepin  
Quinton Grounds, Alt. for Marni von Wilpert

**REPRESENTING**

City of San Diego District 1  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
City of Escondido  
County of San Diego Dist. 2  
City of Solana Beach  
City of Poway  
City of San Diego Dist. 5

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dwight Worden  
Dustin Fuller  
Terra Lawson-Remer

**REPRESENTING**

City of Del Mar  
22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio  
County of San Diego Dist. 3

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Shawna Anderson  
Dewanda Vandermost  
Wayne Brechtel  
Matt Peterson  
Cheryl Goddard  
Lizzy Bendrick  
Jamie Kennedy

**REPRESENTING**

San Dieguito River Park JPA  
San Dieguito River Park JPA  
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel  
Attorney for Harry & Valerie Cooper  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
County Parks & Recreation Department  
City of San Diego, Public Utilities

**Introduction and Announcements:**

Chair LaCava convened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum of seven board members were present to begin the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of the Minutes of June 16, 2023**

Board member Alternate Kazmer moved to approve the minutes and Board member Khoury seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, MacDonald, Garcia, Pepin, Kazmer, Grounds

No votes: None

Absent: Worden, Lawson-Remer

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### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Anderson shared good news that Senator Blakespear's request for \$1.4 million from the state budget to support final engineering and construction of the Osuna Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail project was approved. Also, Senator Pro Tempore Toni Atkins allocated \$1.3 million in the state budget to fund the Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail and SDRP Western Gateway project. Director Anderson also reported on recent events associated with the Escondido Explorers Program including a successful summer camp program funded by the Outdoor Equity Grant.

**Public Comment** – Director Anderson stated that a letter from the San Dieguito River Community Alliance regarding the El Camino Real Assisted Living proposed project was submitted to the JPA Board as a non-agenda item correspondence. No other public comments were submitted.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### **1. Approval of Cooper Property Donation**

**Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution No. 23-4 Accepting Donation of the Cooper Property for Park and Open Space Purposes.

Executive Director Anderson summarized the 20-acre property's location and connectivity to surrounding open space lands, Dust Devil Nature Trail, and lagoon restoration projects, and described due diligence performed by JPA staff, conditions of the donation, and estimated closing costs to JPA. . She described the terms of the deed including preservation in perpetuity for parks and open space uses and potential for habitat restoration and mitigation. She added that a land donation is rare and expressed her gratitude to the owners for donating the open space to the San Dieguito River Park and highly recommended approval.

Executive Director Anderson stated that the JPA staff will pursue grants in the future to conduct resources surveys (biology, cultural) and prepare a management plan.

Chair LaCava reported that as a requirement of the JEPA, the jurisdiction in this case, the City of San Diego provided a letter approving the JPA to acquire the Cooper land.

Board member Khoury asked if there was any information or plans for the private property to the north of the Cooper property. Director Anderson responded that the property has been owned by the same party for decades and she has no knowledge of their plans. Khoury also asked if an appraisal was done of the Cooper property. Counsel Wayne Brechtel said the appraisal for the Cooper property was \$5.4 million

Board member Pepin asked if the existing trails on the Cooper property would continue . Director Anderson stated that that hasn't yet been determined.

Board member Pepin made the motion to recommend approval and adoption of Resolution No. 23-4 and board member alternate Kazmer seconded the motion. All in favor.

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**Public Comment**- no public comment

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, MacDonald, Garcia, Pepin, Kazmer, Grounds

No votes: None

Absent: Worden, Lawson-Remer

2. **Adoption of a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Osuna Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail Recommendation:** Adopt resolution approving the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and MMRP for the Osuna Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail.

Executive Director Anderson provided a brief history and status of the Osuna Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail. She also reported that Senator Blakespear's state budget allocation for the project will cover the estimated budget shortfall for final engineering and construction. A thank you letter was sent to the Senator in early July on behalf of the JPA Board.

Executive Director Anderson explained the CEQA compliance conducted by JPA staff as the CEQA Lead Agency for the project including the preparation of a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration that was circulated for a 30-day public review period from May 4 to June 5, 2023 and noticed in newspapers and at the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse pursuant to Section 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines. The draft MND was circulated to all responsible and trustee agencies and other agencies and organizations interested in the project. She summarized the findings of the MND, and comment letters received during the public review period including City of San Diego Planning and support letters from the San Diego Mountain Biking Association and others. JPA staff prepared a Final MND including the comment letters received and a project Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. With the incorporation of the mitigation measures included in the MMRP, the project would not result in any significant impacts to the environment and all potential impacts would be mitigated to a level below significant.

Director Anderson explained that she worked with City of San Diego staff on mitigation language incorporated into the MND and MMRP and conditions for the site development permit.

Chair LaCava asked if the JPA received comments on the MND from the City of San Diego, Army Corps, or Fish and Wildlife Service that were unanticipated. Director Anderson replied that comments received from the City planning staff were consistent with discussions during the permit process, and no other comments were received.

Board member MacDonald reported that Morgan Run golf resort adjacent to the project was recently sold.

Board member Pepin made the motion to recommend approval of the Adoption of Resolution No. 23-3 and board member alternate Kazmer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, MacDonald, Garcia, Pepin, Kazmer, Grounds

No votes: None

Absent: Worden, Lawson-Remer

**Public Comment**- no public comment

### **INFORMATION**

#### **3. Project Status Updates**

- a. **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** –no report
- b. **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – no report
- c. **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Director Anderson reported that progress is being made on the gap study including field reconnaissance and surveys.

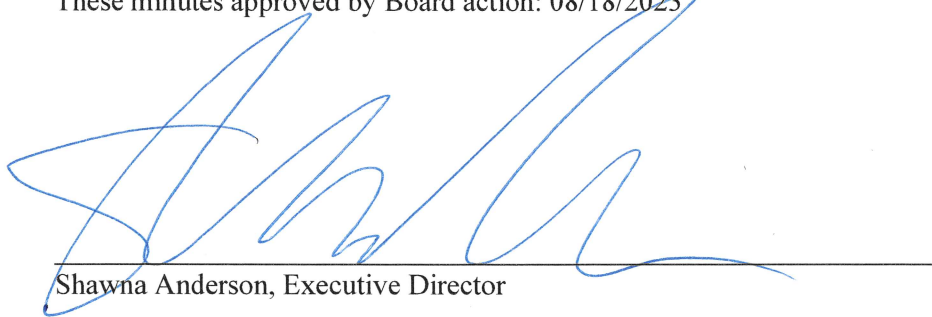
#### **4. Coordination Reports (oral)**

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy**- Director Cheryl Goddard reported the booth at the San Diego Fair was a great success with over 15,500 engagements producing 150 Newsletter signups and 75 volunteer signups. Conservancy was awarded \$19,000 by US Fish & Wildlife to continue invasive species removal work in the Shoulder Creek area of Santa Ysabel. Cheryl announced the River Valley Fest will be held October 15<sup>th</sup>, 4P-7P at Morgan Run Golf Resort and that JPA board members are all invited. Senator Blakespear will be the featured special guest at the Fest.
- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley**- no report
- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – no report
- d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee**- no report

- 5. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** – Board Member Khoury asked if Board Members Kazmer and Worden met with Director Anderson after the July JPA meeting to draft the comment letter regarding the El Camino Real Assisted Living Facility Subsequent EIR. Board Member Kazmer confirmed that the committee met as directed by the Board and a letter was submitted to the City by the CEQA public comment deadline. Director Anderson confirmed the letter was submitted.

Chair LaCava adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board action: 08/18/2023



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Shawna Anderson, Executive Director