

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
Minutes of August 18, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Khoury – Vice Chair  
Dane White, Alternate for Christian Garcia  
Greg Kazmer, Alternate for Joel Anderson  
Jill MacDonald  
Marni von Wilpert  
Dwight Worden

**REPRESENTING**

Citizens Advisory Committee  
City of Escondido  
County of San Diego Dist. 2  
City of Solana Beach  
City of San Diego Dist. 5  
City of Del Mar

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dustin Fuller  
Terra Lawson-Remer  
Joe LaCava - Chair  
Brian Pepin

**REPRESENTING**

22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio  
County of San Diego Dist. 3  
City of San Diego District 1  
City of Poway

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Shawna Anderson  
Dewanda Vandermost  
Wayne Brechtel  
Maggie Brown  
Brian Elliott  
Lizzy Bendrick  
Jamie Kennedy

**REPRESENTING**

San Dieguito River Park JPA  
San Dieguito River Park JPA  
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel  
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley  
City of San Diego District 1  
County Parks & Recreation Department  
City of San Diego, Public Utilities

**Introduction and Announcements:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of the Minutes of July 21, 2023**

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

Yes votes: Khoury, MacDonald, White, Kazmer, vonWilpert, Worden

No votes: None

Absent: LaCava, Lawson-Remer, Pepin, Fuller

Abstain: None

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Anderson mentioned that SDG&E will be removing utility poles in the San Dieguito Lagoon west of Interstate 5 which will improve the aesthetics.

She also reported a recent meeting with Surf Cup Sports regarding their process of obtaining a contractor's bid and timeline for restoring the Coast to Crest trail segment and habitat restoration along their leasehold as required by their City lease. They reiterated their commitment to the trail project. She also learned that their permit had expired and that they would have to apply for a new permit.

Executive Director Anderson is in communication with Senator Blakespear's staff about a press event scheduled for September 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM to announce the state award of funds for the Osuna Trail. She reported that the Morgan Run Golf Course new ownership supports the trail and can assist with the press event as needed. Board member LaCava has confirmed his attendance. Several JPA Board members expressed interest in attending.

**Public Comment** – No public comments received.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**1. Sale of Conservation Easement – Sycamore Westridge**

**Recommendation:** Approve Resolution R23-5 authorizing the sale of a conservation easement over a portion of the Sycamore Westridge property to the U.S. Department of the Navy and authorize the Executive Director to take any and all further actions, including the execution of the conservation easement, required to complete the transaction.

Executive Director Anderson showed the location of the JPA-owned 9.17-acre property in Poway jurisdiction and explained the purpose of the land to be used for mitigation. The Navy is seeking a conservation easement, specifically for Gnatcatcher habitat, to offset construction impacts on Miramar Naval Base.

The appraisal for the conservation easement was approved for \$166,500 (\$18,000 per acre) by the Navy. The Navy will also provide a \$59,555.50 non-wasting endowment for long-term maintenance and management of the conservation easement by the JPA staff. The endowment fund will be placed at Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, where the JPA retains the other habitat conservation funds. The Navy is also providing other up-front costs totaling \$28,573, which includes \$13,502 prorated share of a catastrophic contingency fund in case of fire or other catastrophe that harms the habitat to be held in a separate account at Rancho Santa Fe Foundation.

Exec. Director Anderson is in the process of registering the JPA in the federal government's official system SAM.gov to receive funds and working with Navy staff on other final details for the easement.

Board member Alt. Kazmer inquired where the acquisition funds would be placed. Executive Director Anderson explained her intent to place them in the JPA's capital projects account and not the general operating fund. She stated that no decisions have been made regarding the use of the funds and identified several needs including vehicle reserve and capital projects. Board member Worden commented that the funds could be "parked" until the future when the board could address the use of the funds. He also inquired if there was an emergency fund for the acreage the Navy previously purchased in 2009 at Sycamore Westridge. Executive Director Anderson answered that a catastrophic emergency fund was not required by the US Fish & Wildlife Service at that time and it's a new requirement.

Board member Worden asked if the continued presence of gnatcatchers is a requirement for the conservation. Counsel Brechtel answered that the conservation agreement is to maintain the habitat suitable for the gnatcatcher.

Vice Chair Khoury asked if there were any potential buyers for the remaining 14 acres and would it offer good mitigation potential. Executive Director Anderson answered that the remaining portion of the property could potentially be used for upland mitigation.

Board member alternate Kazmer made the motion to recommend approval and adoption of Resolution No. R23-5 and board member Worden seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Public Comment**- no public comment

Yes votes: Khoury, MacDonald, White, Kazmer, vonWilpert, Worden

No votes: None

Absent: LaCava, Lawson-Remer, Pepin, Fuller

Abstain: None

## 2. **FY 22-23 Year-End Budget Report**

**Recommendation:** Board to acknowledge and file FY 22/23 year-end budget report.

Executive Director Anderson presented the details of the FY 22/23 year-end budget report and answered questions from the Board Members for clarification.

Board member questions included the current staffing shortage and if advertising and salaries should be increased. Executive Director Anderson acknowledged the current challenge to fill the vacant environmental planner position and is considering options including an adjunct staff person and that savings in the budget could be used to fund.

Board member Worden recommended a future agenda item or sub-committee to address the endowment oversight to make future decisions.

Board member Kazmer commented about a future agenda item for the JPA to consider options for an official mitigation bank so that mitigation credits could be sold at a higher price.

Board member Worden made the motion to acknowledge and file the FY 22/23 year-end budget report and board member alternate Kazmer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: Khoury, MacDonald, White, Kazmer, vonWilpert, Worden

No votes: None

Absent: LaCava, Lawson-Remer, Pepin, Fuller

Abstain: None

**Public Comment**- no public comment

### **INFORMATION**

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

- a. **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Director Anderson is meeting with Del Mar staff, Dustin Fuller with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ag. District, and the project consultants and making and progress. She plans to present draft project plans to the CAC and Board in the near future.
- b. **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – Director Anderson explained that the project continues to be on schedule. She is presently working with the project team on changes to the disposal site grading as less fill is anticipated to be placed there. The site will be lower in elevation than expected and the goal continues to grade the fill to look natural and blend with the surrounding topography as required.
- c. **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Director Anderson reported that progress is being made on these projects and she anticipates sharing more details in the next few months.

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

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy**- no report.
  - b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley**- Maggie Brown expressed cautious optimism for progress of trail restoration along Surf Cup.
  - c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – no report
  - d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee**- no report
5. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** – Board member vonWilpert announced the community clean up with “I Love a Clean San Diego”, the mayor’s office and SDG&E at Lake Hodges Trail August 19, 2023. She is hoping to open new recreational opportunities on the lake depending on the State Board of dam safety’s decision. Vice Chair Khoury added that the CAC is interested in updating people on what dam information there is and to look for an opportunity to lobby to the decision makers.

Vice Chair Khoury adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM

These minutes approved by Board action: 10/20/2023

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Shawna Anderson, Executive Director