

San Dieguito River Park  
 Joint Powers Authority  
 18372 Sycamore Creek Road  
 Escondido, CA 92025  
 (858) 674-2270 Fax (858) 674-2280  
 www.sdrp.org

## AGENDA

### SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Friday - May 3, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**Location:** San Rafael Parish Pastoral Center, Rooms D & E  
 (The Pastoral Center building is located on the south side of the parking lot)  
 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo (north of Rancho Bernardo Dr.)

**The Chair cannot start the meeting until a quorum is present. PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10:25 A.M.** The CAC may take action on any item listed on the Consent or Discussion/Action agenda, but only when a quorum is present. If a quorum is temporarily lost during the meeting, no further discussion will take place until the quorum is regained. If the quorum is not regained, the meeting will be adjourned. **Please advise the Chair at the beginning of the meeting if you must leave before 12:15 p.m.**

NOTICE: Agenda packets are available on the [sdrp.org website](http://sdrp.org). If you do not have the ability to access or print an agenda, please contact the office at 858-674-2270 to make alternative arrangements.

Roll Call and Introductions Chair

*Late arrivals should speak to staff to make sure their attendance is noted.*

Approval of 2-2-24 Minutes (Pg. 3-6)

Chair's Report Chair

Executive Director's Report Staff

Public Comment Public

**JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair Joe LaCava  
 San Diego City Council

Vice-Chair Chris Khoury  
 Citizens Advisory Committee

Brian Pepin  
 Poway City Council

Dwight Worden  
 Del Mar City Council

Consuelo Martinez  
 Escondido City Council

Marni von Wilpert  
 San Diego City Council

Joel Anderson  
 Supervisor, County of San Diego

Terra Lawson-Remer  
 Supervisor, County of San Diego

Jill MacDonald  
 Solana Beach City Council

Dustin Fuller, Ex Officio  
 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural  
 Association

Shawna Anderson  
 Executive Director

## DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Reach the Beach Trail Status
2. Hodges Dam Replacement and Level (oral)
3. CAC Roster Updates (oral)

### 4. Committee Reports

Project Review Committee

Trails Committee

Interpretation Committee

## INFORMATION

Horsepark Trail Repairs (oral report)

Osuna Trail Segment of CTC Trail (oral)

Coast to Crest Gaps Planning Studies (oral)

Correspondence

Adjournment

Chair

The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2024.

If you have any questions, please call Dewanda Vandermost, Office Manager (858) 674-2270 x10

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of February 2, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Khoury  
Rich Risner  
Bob Byrnes  
Candice Bowman  
Linda Oster  
Maggie Brown  
Monica Demler  
Liz Gabrych  
Dorothy Mclin  
Don Wendt  
Victoria Touchstone  
Jeremy Blakespear  
Jennifer Dissler  
Susan Williams  
Peter Shapiro  
Pam Heatherington  
Jim Smith  
Jeff Barnouw  
Sue Carr, Alternate for Jan Fuchs  
Bob Dudley  
Neil Meyer

**REPRESENTING**

CAC, Chair  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
California Native Plant Society – SD  
Carmel Valley Planning Board  
Del Dios Town Council  
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley  
Friends of Sikes Adobe  
League of Women Voters  
Lomas Serenas Property Owners  
Ramona Trails  
Rancho Bernardo Planning Board  
San Diego Bicycle Coalition  
San Diego Mountain Biking Assoc.  
San Dieguito Planning Group  
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
Sierra Club  
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group  
Coastal Property Owner  
Coastal Property Owner  
San Pasqual Property Owner  
Eastern Property Owner

**VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT**

Shawna Anderson	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Dewanda Vandermost	San Dieguito River Park JPA
Kristina Leyva	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Paul Bernstein	Lake Hodges resident
Daniel Smith	Lake Hodges resident
Richard Engelhardt	Self
Paul Bernstein	Self
Glen Morgan	Ramona Trails Association
Kevin Kidd	Del Dios Resident

**Introductions and Announcements**

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.  
Guests introduced were Paul Bernstein and Daniel Smith from the Lake Hodges neighborhood.

**Approval of Minutes- 12-1-23**

Jeff Barnouw moved to approve the minutes of December 1 2023, and Neil Meyer seconded the motion.  
All members were in favor.  
Abstain: None

**Chair's Report** – Chair Khoury updated the CAC on the City of San Diego's Hodges Dam consequence modeling report and clarified the terminology that was used to reference risks levels. There was a request that the Lake Hodges Dam presentation given at the December 1, 2023 CAC meeting by City Public Utilities staff Megan Hickey be made available to the CAC.

Chair Khoury announced upcoming Conservancy events.

**Executive Director's Report** –Director Anderson informed the CAC that a plan for a memorial walk on the Lake Hodges Bridge in honor of David Kreitzer is in the works and will keep the CAC informed on details to come.

Director Anderson announced the new SDRP website with a new format and encouraged members to visit the site. She highlighted the Endowment Fund donation page on the website, plus the maps and interactive trails pages. There was a discussion about the Endowment Fund's terms and purpose.

Director Anderson explained that the Horsepark segment of Coast to Crest Trail is closed due to extensive storm damage and provided details on a 20-foot section of washed-out trail and bridge crossing. She also shared that she is working with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural District and the Horsepark operators for repairing the damage and alleviating future water runoff issues.

Director Anderson reported that SDRP was one of the charities for the Red Nose Run in Del Mar, held December 9, 2023 and donations for the park were received in the amount of \$13K.

Director Anderson also announced that SDRP was the charity for the Del Mar Onesie tournament. The donation amount is still to be determined.

Director Anderson gave details about the three new watershed panels installed in the park. She updated the status of events for the Watershed Explorers Program to include a recent visit to the Ilan Lael artist compound in Julian and the partnership with High-tech High school which will focus on the summer program.

Director Anderson shared the JPA's recent events and activities, such as: the Sike's Festive Farmhouse, the Volunteer Enrichment Programs, and a Scout Tour of Sike's Adobe, the SANDAG lagoon restoration project's opening of a channel, the JPA Staff Retreat, and three JPA rangers hired within the last six months. Upcoming events will include a lecture on "Living with Mountain Lions" on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the SDRP Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment** – Jeremy Blakespear requested that an item be added to a future agenda for Reach the Beach trail segment to discuss the alignment of the trail.

The Ramona Trails Association announced the fund raiser presentation of the film "Call Me Mule" on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Sycamore Hall in Poway.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**1. Election of 2024 Officers for Chair and Vice-Chair**

Chair Khoury summarized the CAC bylaws for officers and stated that both he and Vice-Chair Barnouw are willing to serve another term, which would be their second term for both officers. There were no other nominations from the CAC members.

Peter Shapiro nominated Chris Khoury as Chair and Jeff Barnouw as Vice-Chair and Pam Heatherington seconded the nomination. All voted in favor of these nominees.

**2. Review of CAC Member Roster and Representatives**

Chair Khoury explained that CAC meeting attendance records are kept by the JPA staff per the CAC bylaws and clarified the criteria to suspend member organizations for lack of attendance. Khoury informed that there are currently three organizations that have missed three or more consecutive meetings and will be notified of possible suspension: Julian Planning Group, San Diego Farm Bureau, and Walkabout International.

There was a discussion about the process for new organizations to join the CAC.

Director Anderson asked that the CAC members verify the information on the CAC member representative roster and provide an alternate representative for their organization if none are listed. Candice Bowman, listed as primary and alternate for two organizations, agreed to step down as the alternate for the Friends of San Dieguito River Valley and allow another alternate to be assigned. Ms. Bowman will continue as the primary representative for the Carmel Valley Planning Board. Sue Carr will replace Jan Fuchs as the primary for the Coastal Property Owner until further notice.

**3. Review and Appointment of CAC Subcommittee Members and Chairs**

Executive Director Anderson reviewed the CAC Subcommittee rosters and the need for members and a chair for the Project Review Committee (PRC). Victoria Touchstone, Pam Heatherington and Rich Risner volunteered to be members of the PRC adding to the existing members of Maggie Brown and Jeff Barnouw. Director Anderson suggested that they nominate a Chair for the PRC at their next meeting.

CAC members discussed and received clarification regarding the policies for members and voting requirements for the subcommittees.

**4. Discussion of CAC Tributes for Jan Fuchs and Phil Pryde**

Suggestions were given as to how the Board could thank Jan Fuchs and Phil Pryde for their commitment to the CAC and their contribution to the San Dieguito River Park. One of the favored suggestions was a matted framed photo signed by the CAC members and presented at the volunteer party in May.

Chair Khoury asked if all were in favor pursuing the tribute and the vote was unanimous.

**5. 2023 List of Accomplishments and 2024 Priorities**

Chair Khoury commented on the large grants awarded to the JPA for SDRP projects this past year.

Executive Director Anderson reflected on the past year's accomplishments. Anderson pointed out that the vast majority of grants and donations go to SDRP Capital Projects and explained that the SDRP Endowment Fund provides annual distributions to the JPA's operating budget to maintain and manage the SDRP.

**6. Committee Reports**

- a. **Project Review Committee** – no report.
- b. **Trails Committee** – Candice Bowman stated that a meeting was held December 12<sup>th</sup>. The main topic of discussion was e-bike use on trails. The committee set a goal to propose an e-bike policy for the CTC Trail to be presented to the CAC by early summer.
- c. **Interpretation Committee** - no report

**INFORMATION**

**Horsepark Trail (oral report)** – addressed in the Executive Director's report

**New Website and Promotion of SDRP Endowment Fund (oral report)** – addressed in the Executive Director's report.

**Other Park Updates (oral report)** – no report

Jeremy Blakespear made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Barnouw seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1**  
**May 3, 2024**

**TO:** CAC  
**FROM:** Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Reach the Beach Trail Status

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Staff has been providing regular updates at the CAC meetings on the status of the Fairgrounds segment of the Reach the Beach Trail and San Dieguito River Park Western Gateway project. At the CAC's February 2024 meeting, it was requested that the Reach the Beach Trail be placed on the next CAC meeting agenda to address its status specifically regarding equestrian access. Additional information will be provided at your meeting.

**Reach the Beach Summary**

Current Situation

The western extent of the CTC Trail currently terminates at Jimmy Durante Boulevard adjacent to the Fairgrounds' newly restored wetlands. However, a condition in the CTC Coastal Development Permit prohibits equestrian use of the CTC west of the I-5 freeway until a feasible route to extend equestrian access to the beach is determined. An equestrian turnaround is located on the CTC east of the freeway.

A feasibility study was completed by the JPA in 2012 to evaluate alternatives for extending the CTC Trail to the beach in Del Mar, called "Reach the Beach" as visioned in the SDRP Concept Plan (Attachment A). In the meantime, the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA was required to set aside a fenced recreational buffer (approximately 25 feet wide) along the north edge of the San Dieguito River from Jimmy Durante to the railroad bridge. The 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA is required to expand the buffer to 100 feet wide when they replace their exhibit halls (timeline unknown), and to grant an easement to the JPA for the buffer area. A narrower buffer area parallel to the railroad tracks and adjacent to Stevens Creek was also provided on the Fairgrounds property. Currently there is no public access along these buffers.

The City of Del Mar has made progress on the RiverPath Del Mar trail, which exists on the south side of the lagoon from Camino Del Mar to the Grand Avenue Overlook and is planned to continue to Crest Canyon where it will terminate. The City also improved pedestrian access along Jimmy Durante with a roundabout and pedestrian crossings and a wider sidewalk. These improvements provide a better connection between the CTC Trail and RiverPath Del Mar. Although the RiverPath trail is located east and west of the railroad tracks, crossing the tracks is illegal and continues to be a public access concern to be resolved when the railroad bridge is replaced.

Status Updates

# Agenda Item 1

## May 3, 2024

The existing railroad bridge remains an obstacle to extending the CTC Trail west to the beach until the bridge is replaced. The new bridge will be higher than the existing bridge with fewer piers as it crosses the river improving flows particularly during storm events. A special events train platform on the east side of the train tracks will be added to provide access during the Fair and other special events at the Fairgrounds.

The continued challenges to extending the CTC Trail to the beach are:

- The approved plans for a replacement railroad bridge includes a trail undercrossing on the south end of the new bridge (Del Mar side). The undercrossing will allow safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists using the RiverPath Del Mar trail but will not accommodate horses due to its limited height clearance (8 feet). The planned undercrossing will allow pedestrians and cyclists to access the beach using the RiverPath Del Mar.
- The railroad bridge design does not include a trail undercrossing on the north end of the bridge (Fairgrounds side). The Reach the Beach Feasibility Study identified a trail route for the CTC Trail along several hundred feet of the railroad embankment and along the edge of sensitive tidal wetlands between the railroad and Camino del Mar, which is difficult and expensive to overcome considering the trail undercrossing is planned at the south end.
- Space for the CTC Trail is limited with the new railroad alignment (shifted slightly to the east) and platform and may be impeded by related infrastructure like stairs, ramps, fencing, etc. A box culvert for a rerouted Stevens Creek would be the only option for a potential trail crossing through the railroad berm.
- Horses are allowed on the north side of the beach by Del Mar ordinance passed in the 1970s. The ordinance is controversial decades later, and Del Mar citizens and officials raised concerns during public meetings held in Del Mar in 2015 and 2017, regarding mixing horses with heavy beach use by people and dogs. The issue remains unresolved and is expected to be addressed by Del Mar again in the future.
- The coastal permit for the CTC Trail lagoon segment contains a condition that prohibits equestrians west of the I-5 freeway until a “feasible trail connection is identified”. An amendment to the permit is required before horses will be allowed west to the beach.

### Fairgrounds Trail Segment and SDRP Western Gateway

The Reach the Beach Feasibility Study included a design for a trail to extend along the Fairgrounds buffer area (north side of river) with a turnaround at the west end before the railroad tracks. Project plans for this trail are in process with a SDRP western gateway



**Agenda Item 1**  
**May 3, 2024**

designed by James Hubbell, funded by a donation from the Del Mar Foundation and a \$1.3M state grant. Plans and project information were shared at past CAC meetings and will be updated at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Anderson  
Executive Director

Attachment A: Reach the Beach Feasibility Study Preferred Alignment Map

# Reach the Beach Trail Feasibility Study 2012

**Key**  
A - 1  
└── Reach  
└── Alternative

Reach The Beach Trail Segment Feasibility Study

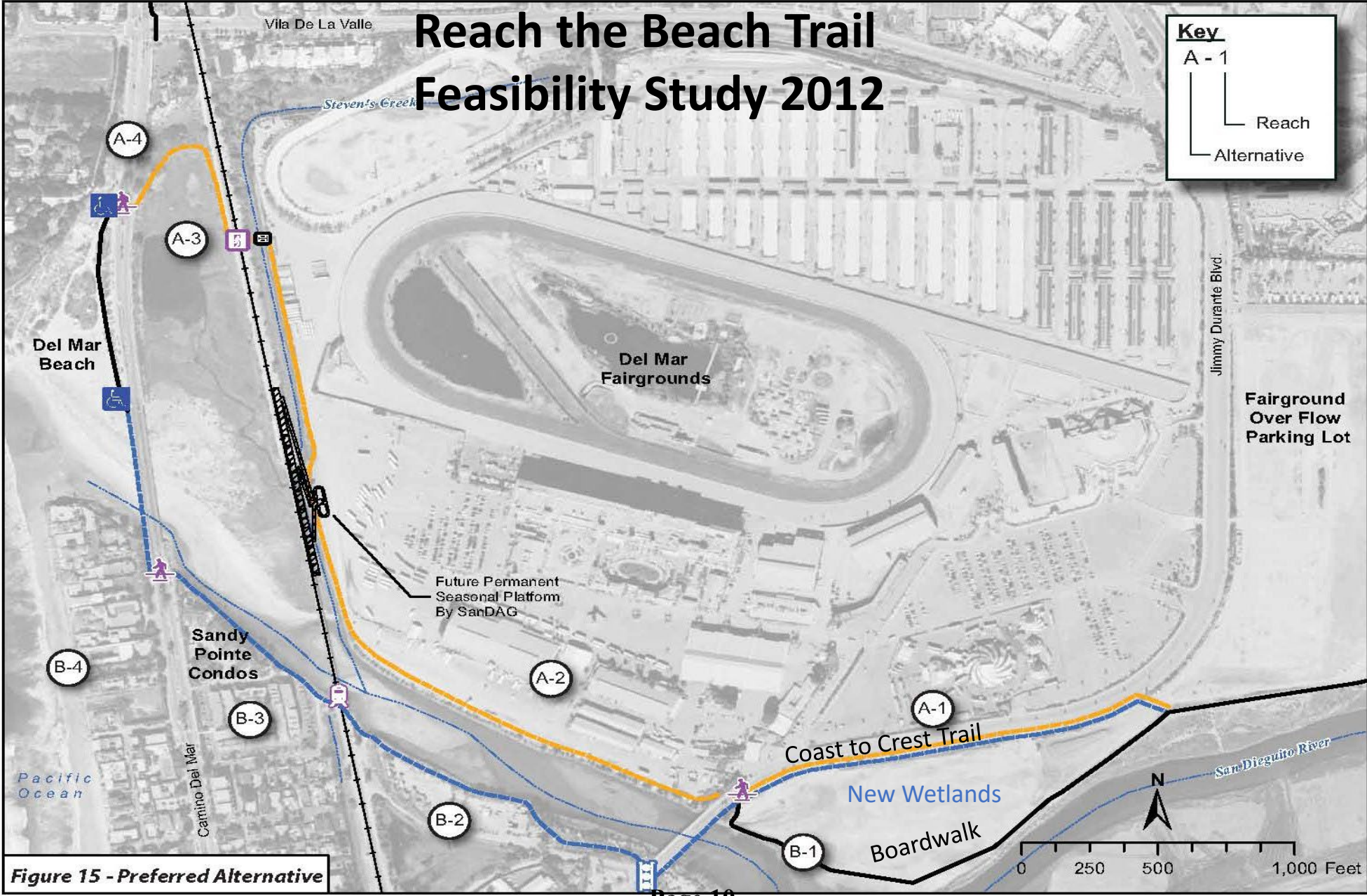


Figure 15 - Preferred Alternative