

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 3, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Khoury
Rich Risner
Bob Byrnes
Linda Oster
Maggie Brown
Monica Demler
Adrienne Brown
Dorothy Mclin
Don Wendt
Becky Rapp
Jeremy Blakespear
Jennifer Disser
Julie Klein
Udo Wahn
Beth Nelson
Cheryl Goddard
Pam Heatherington
Jim Smith
Jonathan Applebaum
Jeff Barnouw
Sue Carr, Alternate for Jan Fuchs
Bob Dudley
Bill Adelson

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
California Native Plant Society – SD
Del Dios Town Council
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Friends of Sikes Adobe
Lake Hodges Native Plant Club
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Ramona Trails
Rancho Bernardo Planning Board
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Mountain Biking Assoc.
San Diego Trails Alliance
San Dieguito Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito Planning Group
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Volcan Mountain Foundation
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
John Degenfelder	Ramona Trails Association

Introductions and Announcements

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM.
Guests introduced were Paul Bernstein and Daniel Smith from the Lake Hodges neighborhood.

Approval of Minutes- 2-2-24

Pam Heatherington moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2024 with a correction to Discussion Item 2 adding Krista Leyva as the alternate for the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley and Linda Oster seconded the motion.

All members were in favor.

Abstain: None

Chair's Report – Chair Khoury reported on the topics discussed at the last two JPA meetings, which included the Lake Hodges Dam consequence report, the JPA's purchase of a new truck, the annual contribution of \$25,000 from SDRVC to JPA's operating fund and honoring Phil Pryde and Jan Fuchs retiring from the CAC.

Chair Khoury stated that he, and others from the Conservancy investigated 770 acres for sale adjacent to Rancho Guejito.

Cheryl Goddard shared that the property is being considered by the County of San Diego as an acquisition to be obtained by state agency grants. Jonathan Applebaum added that the Rancho Guejito land is verified mountain lion corridor.

Executive Director's Report –Director Anderson expanded on the positive relationship with the Conservancy and that representatives from both organizations have been meeting regarding the Conservancy's desire to contribute towards the JPA annual operations fund.

Director Anderson commended the CAC members who agreed to serve on the Interpretation, Project Review and Trails Committees.

Director Anderson reported that JPA will receive \$166,500 from the Dept. of the Navy for the sale of the conservation easement at Sycamore Westridge and explained the allocation of the funds approved by the JPA Board

Director Anderson updated the status of representatives for the CAC and the possibility of suspending those groups that are not represented.

Director Anderson shared the JPA's recent events and activities, such as: the Cactus Wren habitat restoration project funded by SANDAG, the plans for the second year of the Watershed Explorers Program funded by the Outdoor Equity Grant and hiring an environmental planner with a projected start date of June 3rd. Upcoming events will include the Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 19th and the W-19 lagoon restoration project's estimated September ribbon cutting and trail opening.

Public Comment – Beth Nelson from the San Dieguito Planning Group shared information on a project that has been submitted to the city for a 48,000-sf. two-story sports complex on the 24 acres of wetlands adjacent to the former polo fields.

SDRVC Director Cheryl Goddard shared upcoming events listed on their website, www.sdrvc.org including Valley Vibes event June 2nd.

Becky Rapp from Rancho Bernardo Planning Group shared information about the County's proposed social equity cannabis program to expand to the back county. She stated that a possible negative side-effect could be from run-off from pesticides that would reach the watershed.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Reach the Beach Trail Status

Director Anderson presented the status of the Reach the Beach trail and how the proposed Fairgrounds trail and gateway fit into the plan. Anderson explained the results of the JPA's 2012 feasibility study that recommended the preferred trail alignments and their current status and the continuing challenges facing trail access to the beach including the SANDAG train double-track project and seasonal platform plans that provide limited room on the north side for a multi-use trail. Other challenges include crossing roads and permit restrictions regarding equestrian access.

Director Anderson reported on the progress with the 22nd Agricultural District of expanding the buffer for the Western Gateway and the City of Del Mar's exploration of a living levee. No action was taken by the CAC.

2. Hodges Dam Replacement and Level (oral)

Chair Khoury explained the current level of Lake Hodges and the issues surrounding the City's requirement to keep the lake level at a maximum of 280 feet. He referred to the details of the consequence report that was completed for Lake Hodges Dam and correspondence from the city regarding expediting the planning for the dam replacement.

There was a discussion about the conservation of water, the decline of birdlife in the lake area, and the tradeoffs for raising the level of the lake to 290 ft vs. keeping it at the state's mandated level of maximum of 280 ft.

Bob Dudley made a motion to have the JPA examine further the consequences of the lake level of 280' vs. 290' and Linda Oster seconded the motion.

All members were in favor.

Abstain: none

3. CAC Roster Updates

Director Anderson reported on the CAC Roster updates in her Executive Director report. She explained that the San Diego Farm Bureau is not able to provide a representative to attend the CAC meetings and may have to be suspended. She also mentioned that C-3 has not yet assigned a new representative.

4. Committee Reports

a. **Project Review Committee** – Pam Heatherington reported that the committee attended a site visit to the Surf Cup proposed Sport Complex on Via de la Valle and that a future field trip is planned for the proposed Senior Living Facility on El Camino Real.

- b. **Trails Committee** – Jennifer Disser reported that the committee met on April 10th and discussed e-bike use on trails and the trail survey to be performed June 20th & 23rd. The trails committee is seeking volunteers to help with the trail survey.

- c. **Interpretation Committee** - no report

INFORMATION

Horsepark Trail (oral report) – Director Anderson reported that the trail remains closed and that there has been no response from the 22nd Agricultural District to the correspondence sent by the JPA Board. The JPA Board will be addressing this at their next meeting.

Osuna Trail Segment of CTC Trail (oral) - Director Anderson reported the project is still in the site development permit phase. She added that a 25-year license agreement to operate the trail on the City of San Diego’s property has been granted.

Coast to Crest Gaps Planning Studies (oral) – Director Anderson intends to present on the CTC Gaps at the next CAC meeting.

Other Park Updates (oral report) – no report

Correspondence – Letters from SCE regarding lagoon sedimentation effects and from Sandy Lane Resident to SANDAG are on the SDRP website CAC page for review.

Maggie Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Oster seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm.