

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of September 16, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherri Lightner, Chair
Olga Diaz -Vice Chair
Lee Haydu
Pam Slater-Price
Tom Golich
Becky Bartling

REPRESENTING

City of San Diego
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar
County of San Diego
Citizens Advisory Committee
22 District Agricultural Association

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
Keith Greer	SANDAG Environmental Planner
Jacqueline Winterer	Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Freda Reid	Lagoon Committee
Cheryl Goddard	County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
Phil Pryde	Audubon Society
Jan McMillan	Self
Cory Ha'o	Property Owner

Introduction and Announcements

Chair Lightner convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. in the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 358, San Diego, CA 92101

Boardmember Golich introduced the CAC members in attendance as, Jacqueline Winterer, Freda Reid, and Phil Pryde.

Approval of Minutes of June 17th, 2011

Chair Lightner asked for any corrections, seeing none, deemed the minutes approved.

Executive Director's Report- Director Bobertz stated that the River Park staff have been working with the Conservancy to educate the mayoral candidates for the City of San Diego by distributing information on the River Park to all of the candidates and have had a conversation with all the candidates or their staff. On the 6th of September staff, along with Supervisor Slater- Price, Councilwoman Olga Diaz and the Conservancy President Rand Newman, took Congressman Filner on a 3 hour tour of the River Park. Boardmember Slater-Price said that we are pleased with the outcome of the tour because Congressman Filner was very impressed with the park and pledged support for JPA funding if elected.

Mr. Bobertz said that the Marine Life Protection Act review that downgraded the San Dieguito Lagoon designation has been delayed by the State Office of Administrative Law until procedural shortcomings are

corrected. One of the shortcomings cited was the failure to provide reasons for downgrading the San Dieguito lagoon. Another helpful contact was made by Boardmember Dave Roberts, who arranged a meeting with the Deputy Executive Director of California Fish and Game Commission to discuss the status of the lagoon.

Mr. Bobertz said he was pleased to announce that our new office building has won a California American Institute of Architects award for design. There were twenty awards statewide and only two in San Diego. Another item that we are pleased to report on is the Heritage Trail connection (aka Old Coach) which will provide a link via the City of Poway's trail system to the Transcounty trail on the south side of Poway. We are going to have a grand opening of this trail in October.

Public Comment- None

Chair Lightner requested that item 6 be moved to the Information part of the agenda and items 7 and 10 be moved to the Consent calendar.

CONSENT

1. Memorandum of Understanding- Sikes Adobe Farmers Market
Recommendation: Approve attached MOU with North San Diego County Certified Farmers Market and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

2. Award Contract for Eucalyptus Removal at Del Dios Gorge
Recommendation: Award contract for eucalyptus removal to Pacific Slope Tree Company.

Deputy Director Carter said that she had some updated numbers on the contract for the removal. The Pacific Slope Tree Service has revised their bid from \$255,000 to \$320,000 but are still the low bidder. Ms. Carter said that there is one helicopter company in San Diego that does tree removal from remote locations and their name is Black Hawk Helicopters and their bid is \$51,000.

3. Amend FY 11/12 Budget to Appropriate Grant Funds Received
Recommendation: Adopt the attached amendment to the FY 11/12 Operating Budget.
4. Crosby Estate Conservation and Access Easement
Recommendation: Adopt attached resolution accepting a conservation easement over approximately 4.4 acres of open space and vernal pool habitat owned by The Crosby Estate at Rancho Santa Fe Master Association and authorizing the Executive Director to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.
 - a. Accept 4.4 acre Conservation Easement from Crosby Estate
 - b. Accept 85 acre Conservation Easement from County
 - c. Accept Access Easement from Crosby Golf

5. New CAC Property Owner Representatives
Recommendation: Appoint new property owner representatives.

7. Ad Hoc Committee Report

10. Award Contract for Entry Monument Design, Fabrication and Installation
Recommendation: Award contract to Stone Imagery.

Boardmember Slater-Price made a motion to approve the Consent items and Boardmember Golich seconded. All approved. Chair Lightner registered a NO vote on item #1.

ACTION

8. Polo Club Lease Renewal-

Recommendation: Send the attached letter to the City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Department.

Chair Lightner recused herself from this item and requested the vice-chair, Olga Diaz, chair the meeting for this discussion. Chair Lightner left the room. Shawna Anderson said that the Polo Club and the City of San Diego are in negotiations for the renewal of this Polo Club lease. These negotiations have not been made public, adding concern to the River Park and the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley who have watched this area and lobbied for the trail section along the Polo Club grounds. The Friends wrote a letter about this issue arguing for open talks which would include outside parties. Ms. Anderson explained that the lease was signed in 1986 with the City of San Diego for a 26 year period. The 80 acre property is zoned Agricultural/Residential and Open Space Flood Plain and is owned by the City of San Diego. There is restrictive language in the deed that may not permit some current uses – such as soccer tournaments which cause the promoters to have to find parking areas to accommodate all the spectators. Ms. Anderson said that we have been involved in settling the recent code violations on the property and have worked with the lease holder on alternatives to our trail segment along with habitat restoration. A letter has been drafted to the City of San Diego Real Estate Director for your consideration which recommends the public process that should be followed and CEQA compliance. The CAC considered this issue at their last meeting and voted to address the issues in the draft letter.

Executive Director Bobertz said that he had been informed by Counsel Brechtel that because Chair Lightner recused herself we no longer have a quorum to vote on the draft letter. Mr. Bobertz said that he would send the letter with his signature, without reference to a Board action. Boardmember Slater-Price agreed with that suggestion, but also requested that the item be returned to the Board at the next meeting when there would hopefully be more Board members in attendance.

9. Coast to Crest Trail Implementation

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution applying for Proposition 84 River Parkway Grant Funds for Construction of Clevenger Canyon/Pamo Valley Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail: and Send letter to Director of the California Department of Fish and Game requesting the department's cooperation in placing a segment of the Coast to Crest Trail over CDFG property.

- a. Resolution applying for River Parkway grant funds for Clevenger/Pamo Valley segment of the Coast to Crest Trail
- b. Letter to California Department of Fish & Game

Deputy Director Carter gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Coast to Crest Trail segments that have not been completed yet, and explained the status of each. An overview of the trail system was

displayed with trail segments that need to be completed and an explanation of the constraints in each area. Ms. Carter requested that the Board authorize a letter to the Fish and Game Department asking for their cooperation to incorporate the Coast to Crest trail into their property at the foot of Boden Canyon.

Boardmember Golich made a motion to approve the resolution and letter and Boardmember Diaz seconded. All in favor.

11. Escondido Creek Watershed Alliance- Director Bobertz said that the Escondido Creek Watershed Alliance has members from City of Encinitas, Escondido Creek Conservancy, San Dieguito Water District, San Elijo JPA, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Santa Fe Irrigation District and City of Solana Beach, all of which have signed a MOU with respect to the future planning and development in the Escondido Creek. The San Dieguito River Park JPA has been asked to join the alliance. This would allow SDRP to participate in monthly meetings and discuss issues and plans for the future.

Boardmember Diaz stated that on a recent hike to the David Kreitzer/Lake Hodges Bridge the portapotty had a terrible stench and needs to be removed. Director Bobertz stated that it is a condition of our permit to have it in place there, but he would make sure it is cleaned more often.

Boardmember Golich made a motion to approve the membership in the Escondido Creek Watershed Alliance and Boardmember Diaz seconded. All in favor.

INFORMATION

6. SANDAG/Caltrans Wetland Restoration Project at San Dieguito Lagoon- Keith Greer, Environmental Planner for SANDAG, said that they are very happy to be working with the SDRP on this mitigation project on a 107 acre project site called W-19. Mr. Greer said that they have agreed to conditions that they will have peer review of the proposed project design and will include 10 acres of wetlands that may be needed by SCE for potential future mitigation needs associated with their San Dieguito Wetland Restoration Project. Mr. Greer said the project has been divided into several steps: feasibility study, permitting and restoration. Working with a team of consultants and the JPA staff, he said that we have designed and evaluated options that include 50 acres of tidal wetland and 20 acres of freshwater area. We took all options into consideration and we now feel that we have a feasible project that will benefit Edison's project with more flushing. In the near future there will be a meeting with all the regulatory agencies, and then we will move into the next phase which is detailed project design and CEQA analysis, followed by obtaining permits.
12. Mobility Policy- Shawna Anderson said that the Department of Justice issued a ruling that any "other power-driven mobility devices" (i.e., not just wheelchairs) could be used on all State and local government trails, and that government agencies would have to adopt a policy justifying any limitations on such use. She had prepared a Mobility Policy per those requirements that would exclude internal combustion engines from all trails, and would specify which trails could accommodate "other power-driven mobility devices". She explained that this policy had been adopted internally as an Operating Policy and would be posted at trailheads.

13. Progress Report- Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead- Deputy Director Carter said that the Sikes Adobe Farmstead is looking so great since we have added interpretive signs, picket fence, furniture and interior interpretive displays. The museum manager, Anne Cooper, is recruiting a group of volunteers that will be called Friends of the Sikes Adobe to help with the fundraising and continued decisions being made at the adobe. Ms. Carter said that the Farmers Market is stable and everyone is working very hard to keep the market going. Recently we added a layer of mulch to keep the dust down at the site. As a possible addition to the farmstead site, we are interested in the concept of having a large barn constructed to house the farmers market and other events. Weddings were an idea to generate additional funding but the drawback to that event is we only have portapotty use at the site. We did not feel that having that type of facility at a formal event would be acceptable. Boardmember Diaz suggested the Vineyard as an option for the reception and it is in close proximity to the Sikes Adobe. Ms. Carter said that staff will be returning with the draft Master Plan when it is ready.
14. Trail Mile Markers: Director Bobertz said that the Friends of the San Dieguito Valley have proposed we have mile markers on the trail to let users know how far they have gone on the trail and also provide a location marker in the event of an emergency. Mr. Bobertz showed the diagram of what they would look like and discussed how the signage would brand the trail. These non-reflective, matte finish stainless steel markers would be mounted on trex posts and the Friends would collaborate with the Conservancy to raise donor funding for fabrication, installation and maintenance.

Jacqueline Winterer said that she felt that the issue of safety was paramount in having these mile markers. Her own experience having come across a hiker that had fainted on the trail and how she had to identify where the first responders would come to the rescue prompted her concerns for mile markers.

15. Coordination Reports (oral)

San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy Leslie Woollenweber reported that their Executive Director, Craig Adams, is retiring and will be missed. She said that the Conservancy will be hiring another Executive Director. Ms. Woollenweber said that they are working on two projects with the River Park and have pledged \$50K for the Pamo Valley and Santa Fe Valley/Lusardi Trail projects. We are embarking on the large eucalyptus invasive removal program at Del Dios Gorge and just received a \$30K grant from REI and Fish and Wildlife to do a pond restoration at the lagoon. We recently launched our Kids Exploring a Sense of Place along with our Adults Exploring program. The Conservancy is celebrating their 25th Anniversary at the Rancho Valencia Resort in Rancho Santa Fe on September 25th.

Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley- None
Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation- None

San Dieguito Lagoon Committee- None

16. Status Reports

River Park Projects- Deputy Director Carter said that the Mesa Loop trail is near the W-19 area of the lagoon but is not part of the Coast to Crest Trail. We have just received approval from the Coastal Commission to start construction. Most of the construction will be done in-house although a small section will be contracted out. We have submitted paperwork to the Coastal Commission on the Horsepark Trail and we hope that that will be approved soon also. On October 3rd we will begin constructing a viewing platform with funds we received as a component of the eucalyptus removal grant. Ms. Carter reported that this Saturday is Coastal Cleanup Day and 90 SDG&E employees will be cleaning up the lagoon site.

Proposed Trail Parking/Staging area in Del Mar- Executive Director Bobertz said there was nothing new to report.

17. Jurisdictional Status Reports- Boardmember Diaz said that some SDRP staff and SDRV Conservancy members attended a council meeting where the City of Escondido declared September 25th "San Dieguito River Park Day". Ms. Diaz will present the certificate to the River Valley Conservancy on the 25th at Riverfest. Boardmember Slater-Price presented a certificate along with Boardmember Jacob to the Conservancy at their last Board of Supervisors meeting. Boardmember Golich stated that the City of Solana Beach also presented a certificate to the Conservancy for 25 years of service to the community. Chair Lightner stated that the City of San Diego will also be issuing a certificate in the near future.

18. Communications

19. CLOSED SESSION- Counsel Brechtel reported that a closed session meeting is not necessary.

Chair Lightner adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

These minutes approved by Board Action

Date

Executive Director