
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of April 19, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe LaCava - Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Brian Pepin
Dwight Worden
Marni von Wilpert
Greg Kazmer – Alternate
Jill MacDonald

REPRESENTING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Consuelo Martinez
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

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

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Wayne Brechtel
Brian Elliot
Lizzy Bendrick
Becca Smith
Quinton Grounds
Lee BenVan
Cheryl Goddard
Maggie Brown
Kristina Leyva

REPRESENTING

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel
City of San Diego District 1
County Parks & Recreation Department
County of San Diego Dist. 3
City of San Diego Dist. 5
City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair LaCava convened the meeting at 11:02 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 February 16, 2024

Board Member Pepin moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Alternate Kazmer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Kazmer (Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Martinez

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Anderson announced that SDRP JPA hired an environmental planner with an expected start date of June 3, 2024.

Director Anderson recounted presentations made by JPA staff to the La Jolla Rotary, the Urban Land Institute, and the Del Mar Lagoon Committee.

Director Anderson reported that SDRP JPA purchased a new Chevrolet Silverado truck from an Escondido dealership for the fleet price of \$57,807.

Director Anderson described recent SDRP JPA events and activities, such as; the Ramona Trails Ride at Sikes Adobe hosted by the Conservancy and park rangers, continuing the work on the Cactus Wren restoration project funded by a SANDAG grant, she also reminded the board about the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Party to be held at Sikes Adobe Farmstead May 19th, 2024.

CAC Chair's Report

Board Member Khoury stated that there had not been a CAC meeting for the last two months and had nothing to report.

Public Comment – No public comments received.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of City of San Diego Easement Acquisition for El Camino Real Bridge Replacement Project

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 24-3 granting easement and temporary construction permit to City of San Diego to accommodate El Camino Real Bridge Replacement and authorize Executive Director to finalize and sign final documents.

Executive Director Anderson provided specifics for the City's requested use of the easement areas and the logistics and benefits of the project including a Coast to Crest Trail connection under the new bridge. She

stated the offer of \$3,400 for the easements based on the City's appraisal . She stated that the easement sale will be conditioned on approvals from two granting agencies in accordance with the JPA's property deed, which is in process.

Executive Director Anderson recommended two text changes be made to the proposed resolution including to section #3 to reference the City's landscape plans and removal of the word "staging" explaining that the City will not be staging equipment or materials on the easements.

Chair La Cava pointed out that the City's project will also provide connections on both sides of El Camino Real to the CTC Trail that will improve accessibility in the area.

The board members discussed:

- Clarification regarding the vegetation and language related to the replanting and the old bridge pavement removal.
- Confirmation that the project had completed CEQA and Coastal Commission approvals and that an Environmental Impact Report and field studies were done.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Pepin moved to approve Resolution 24-3, including the two text changes to the resolution, granting easements to the City of San Diego to accommodate the El Camino Real Bridge Replacement and authorize Executive Director Anderson to finalize and sign the final documents. Board Member Alternate Kazmer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Kazmer (Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Martinez

Abstain: None

2. **FY23-24 Quarter 3 Budget Report**

Recommendation: None

Executive Director Anderson reviewed the status of the third quarter operating budget and the first quarter budget for the Coast.

Public Comment- no public comment

3. **Report from JPA Ad-hoc Budget Committee**

Chair LaCava summarized their March meeting with the Executive Director and that they continue to explore other sources of revenue. He also reported discussions and agreements are in process with the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and their plan to contribute \$25,000 per year to the JPA operations fund.

Executive Director Anderson added that the Committee reviewed Staff's proposed FY24-25 budget and that the budget is projected to keep member agency contributions at their current amounts (same as FY23-24). The Committee approved scheduling the proposed budget for consideration at the May meeting. She notified all member agency staff as a courtesy as requested by the Committee.

Board Member Worden suggested that the Board explore an inflation factor and other measures to add greater stability to the operations budget as a potential amendment to the joint powers agreement.

Board Member Kazmer agreed with Board Member Worden and recommended that a committee review the JEPA and bylaws for other potential changes and updates. Board Members Kazmer, Worden, and LaCava agreed to serve on a Bylaws/JEPA Ad-hoc committee.

Public Comment- no public comment

4. **Authorize Budget Allocation for Sycamore Westridge Conservation Easement Income**

Recommendation: Authorize budget allocations for conservation easement sale proceeds.

Executive Director Anderson explained the details of the conservation easement income of \$166,500 and recommended allocations.

Chair LaCava suggested deferring the decision for the allocation of the remaining \$54,696 until the next JPA meeting when the Board considers the proposed FY24-25 operations budget.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Alt. Kazmer made a motion to approve authorization of the Staff's recommended budget allocations:

- reimburse the JPA operations account for the truck purchase of \$57,806,
- deposit \$30,000 to the JPA's Vehicle Reserve account,
- contribute to the County's CTC San Dieguito Road Pathway project engineering plan with \$10,000,
- purchase an All-Terrain Vehicle for \$14,000.

And that the remaining balance of \$54,694 be deferred and determined during consideration of the FY24-25 operations budget at the May meeting. Board Member Worden seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Kazmer (Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Martinez

Abstain: None

5. **Status of Horsepark Trail Repair**

Recommendation: None

Executive Director Anderson stated that there continues to be no response from the 22nd Agricultural District CEO, nor the Horsepark operator regarding the JPA's letter requesting the bridge and trail repair. Anderson reported her conversation with Ex Officio Board Member Fuller that Ag District staff is working on the problem but didn't have details. Director Anderson recommended that a JPA Board Member initiate contact with the CEO. .

Chair LaCava agreed to call the 22nd Agricultural District CEO to discuss the situation.

Board member Worden added that communication to the 22nd Agricultural District should emphasize that the JPA be involved in defining the scope of the problem and the design of the fix of the damage and that the inability to use the trail is contributing to the overall damage.

The Board directed Staff to add a closed session to the next JPA meeting to discuss the matter further.

INFORMATION

6. **Project Status Updates**

- a. **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – Director Anderson reported that the license agreement from the City of San Diego was unanimously approved which allows for the grant invoicing to start. Development permits are still in process. Formalizing the contract with the state of California grant office for the Senator Blakespear grant is in the works.
- b. **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Meetings held with the City of Del Mar staff and coordinating the contract for the state grant.
- c. **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – June 5th, 2024 scheduled opening of the inlet. The ribbon cutting and grand opening will be scheduled for September 2024.
- d. **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Project consultants in coordination with Staff are finalizing cost estimates for the trail feasibility study for three different trail options for the East San Pasqual Gap. A draft feasibility study will be presented to the CAC and other interested community groups for input and comments. The Sutherland Gap project draft design is in the works.

Chair LaCava introduced his Deputy Chief of Staff Brian Elliot who shared an update on the Surf Cup trail site development permit that had expired and is now in the City's submittal process for re-issue.

7. **Coordination Reports (oral)**

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy** - Director Cheryl Goddard highlighted several key efforts by the Conservancy to support the JPA. Their board voted to continue contributing 2/5th of the JPA's Interpretive Ranger's salary for the next year, totaling \$29,000. Additionally, they allocated \$10,000 to the County's San Dieguito Road Pathway CTC Trail study to match the JPA's contribution.

Goddard also announced the Conservancy's commitment to contribute an annual amount of \$25,000 to the JPA for operational costs. The Conservancy also secured funding for 10 acres of ice plant mapping in the San Dieguito Lagoon through an SDG&E grant of \$40,000 to aid in ice plant removal in the lagoon area. Goddard announced that the Wildlife Conservation Board awarded the Conservancy \$1.5 million for habitat restoration in the Rancho Santa Fe reach of the San Dieguito River. Lastly, a joint funding event with the JPA called "Valley Vibes" is scheduled for June 2nd at the lagoon ranger station.

- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley**- no report
- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – no report
- d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee**- no report

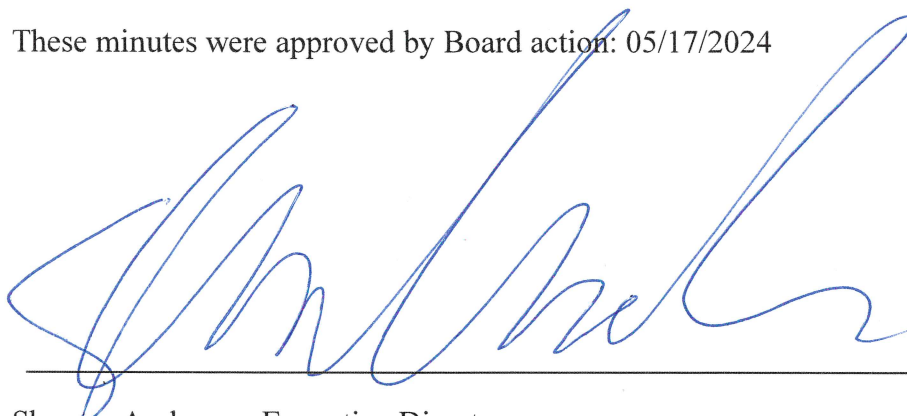
8. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** – Chair LaCava inquired about the Hodges Ped/Bike Bridge maintenance agreement with the City of San Diego and if there has been a resolution. Executive Director Anderson shared that she is in conversations with City staff regarding maintenance responsibilities for the bikeway connecting to the Hodges Ped/Bike Bridge, and discussions are focused on road and pathway maintenance. Board Member vonWilpert requested that she be kept in the loop.

Board Member Worden announced the annual progress report on SCE's San Dieguito Lagoon restoration will be presented on May 9th at Del Mar Townhall.

Board Member vonWilpert announced the Friends of Lake Hodges clean up scheduled for April 21 at 9:30A.

Chair LaCava adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

These minutes were approved by Board action: 05/17/2024



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director