
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of May 17, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe LaCava - Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Brian Pepin
Dwight Worden
Marni von Wilpert
Consuelo Martinez
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
City of Escondido
City of Solana Beach

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Joel Anderson
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
County of San Diego Dist. 2
22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Wayne Brechtel
Lizzy Bendrick
Matthew Tillyer
Quinton Grounds
Shravani Singavarapu
Abbey Reuter
Anabella Gonzales

REPRESENTING

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

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair LaCava convened the meeting at 11:05 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 April 19, 2024

Board Member von Wilpert moved to approve the minutes and Board Member MacDonald seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, Pepin, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Martinez

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Anderson reminded board members of the upcoming JPA/Conservancy volunteer appreciation party to be held at Sikes Adobe Farmstead, May 19th.

CAC Chair's Report

Vice Chair Khoury provided an update on discussions related to the water level of Lake Hodges. He shared information from Meagan Hickey, San Diego City Public Utilities Dept. regarding recent actions for the City's Hodges Dam replacement project and confirmed the water level restrictions would remain at the state mandated 280 ft. maximum until the new dam construction is complete.

Executive Director Anderson informed the board that the Citizens Advisory Committee unanimously approved a motion recommending that the JPA board investigate the impact of the 280-foot maximum lake level on the San Dieguito River Valley's environmental and recreational resources.

Legal counsel advised that agendaing the topic for board discussion was appropriate. The Board confirmed that the topic would be included on the next JPA agenda. Board Member von Wilpert offered to have San Diego City PUD staff present to offer their knowledge and assist with the review.

Public Comment – No public comments received.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. County of San Diego – Neighborhood Reinvestment Program: Outdoor Equity Access Vehicle and Trailer

Recommendation: Approve application and resolution for Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Grant.

Executive Director Anderson provided specifics of the proposed JPA grant application for this County program including utility vehicle specifications, storage, and usage. Anderson shared that an anonymous donor from the Friends of Sikes Adobe will donate a match of \$15,000 toward the purchase of the vehicle. Chair LaCava asked that the anonymous donor be thanked from the JPA Board for their grant match.

Director Anderson responded to questions and added clarification for the following:

- Trail Compatibility: The vehicle is electric and is capable of handling off-road terrain; however, it is not suitable for the ranger's trail maintenance needs.
- Street Legality: The vehicle is not street legal. However, the proposal includes a trailer for hauling the UTV to other areas within the park

- **Charging Facilities:** The vehicle uses 110 volts and will be charged at the lagoon ranger station.
- **Application Details:** The board acknowledged an error in the application form for total expenditures that will be corrected prior to grant submittal.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Worden moved to approve the application and resolution for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Grant. Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Martinez

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson, Pepin

Abstain: None

2. **Proposed FY24-25 JPA Budget**

Recommendation: Consider and Approve Proposed FY24-25 Budget

Executive Director Anderson explained the details of the proposed FY24-25 operations budget and the 2024 Coast Budget.

- **Member Agency Contributions:**
 - Notably, the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 does not increase member agency contributions over the current (FY2023-24) amounts.
- **Conservation Easement Proceeds:**
 - Director Anderson's recommendation that the unallocated balance of \$54,694 for the Sycamore Westridge conservation easement be deposited into the operations endowment fund, allowing for the final decision to be deferred to the Board.
- **New Revenue Sources:**
 - The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy announced a contribution of \$25,000 to the operations fund and is in discussions with JPA to continue the contribution for the next five years. The \$25,000 is included in the proposed budget.
 - The Conservancy has been funding 2/5 of the JPA's interpretive ranger salary since 2021 based on an annual MOU with the JPA. Executive Director Anderson explained that this funding source is short-term, and the assumption is the JPA will transition to the responsibility of full-time funding for this position once the Conservancy's contribution concludes.
- **Loan Repayment for Ranger Station Construction:**
 - The proposed budget includes an annual loan repayment of \$44,362 for a loan secured by the JPA in February 2018 to fund the construction of the Ranger station.
 - Previously, the annual fee was partially covered by the coast budget, utilizing a \$48,000 temporary office fee. This fee expired in 2022.

- The idea of re-evaluating the loan and considering refinancing was discussed. Staff agreed to investigate this.
- **Bylaws JEPAC Committee:**
 - In response to recent challenges posed by high inflation factors and the 5% cap, the Board established a bylaws JEPAC committee. Committee members include board members LaCava, Worden, and alternate Kazmer. A meeting for this committee will be scheduled soon.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Worden moved to approve the proposed FY24-25 JPA Budget with the unallocated balance of \$54,694 from the Sycamore Westridge conservation easement to be held in JPA account for future allocation. Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: LaCava, Khoury, MacDonald, Worden, vonWilpert, Martinez, Pepin

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson

Abstain: None

INFORMATION

3. Project Status Updates

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – no report
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – no report
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – SDRP Staff will attend the June 5th, 2024 inlet opening. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new wetlands and trail is being planned for September/October 2024. Board member Worden asked that a W-19 presentation for performance criteria be added as a future agenda item and include a representative from SANDAG.
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Project consultant team in coordination with JPA Staff are actively working on the Sutherland alignment and three options for the East San Pasqual alignment. These will be presented at the upcoming board and CAC meetings in June or July.

4. Coordination Reports (oral)

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

5. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** – Board member Worden reported on two important meetings he recently attended, which are:
 - University of Santa Barbara presentation on the mitigation performance of Southern California Edison’s San Dieguito lagoon restoration project.
 - SANDAG meeting focused on sand replenishment and management strategies regarding potential increases in sand entrainment from sand replenishment projects.
6. **Correspondence** – none
7. **Adjourn to Closed Session** – Counsel Brechtel reported that the board met in closed session and provided direction to its legal counsel to file a claim under the California court claims act to protect the JPA’s right to recover damages for harm that has occurred to the HorsePark segment of the Coast to Crest Trail. No further reportable action was taken.

Chair LaCava adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

These minutes were approved by Board action: 06/21/2024



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director