

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Khoury
Rich Risner
Candice Bowman
Linda Oster
Maggie Brown
Adrienne Brown
Liz Gabrych
Dorothy McLin
Don Wendt
Victoria Touchstone
Jeremy Blakespear
Susie Murphy
Udo Wahn
Pam Heatherington
Jeff Barnouw
Bob Dudley
Bill Adelson
Neil Meyer

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Lake Hodges Native Plant Club
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 Lagoon Committee
Sierra Club
Coastal Property Owner
San Pasqual Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Kristina Leyva
Paul Bernstein
John Anshus
Karen Billing
Anabella Gonzales

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Lake Hodges resident
Lake Hodges resident
Union Tribune
City of San Diego PUD

Introductions and Announcements

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.
The guest introduced was Karen Billing from the Union Tribune.

Approval of Minutes-6-7-24

Pam Heatherington moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2024 and Jeff Barnouw seconded the motion.
All members were in favor.
Abstain: None

Chair's Report – Chair Khoury reported that the Lake Hodges level discussion will be an agenda item at the August 16, 2024 JPA Board meeting with the City of San Diego Public Utilities staff attending.

Executive Director’s Report –Director Anderson reported on the following:

June and July JPA Board Meetings: Summarized actions taken by JPA at the two past JPA meetings including approving JPA operations funding MOU with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.

Remembrance of Jan and Bob Fuchs: Director Anderson reported on the substantial achievements of both Jan and Bob Fuchs and the importance of their efforts for the San Dieguito River Park. There will be a commemorative bench placed along the new lagoon trail next to the El Camino Real wildlife undercrossing that she advocated for.

W-19 Restoration Project: A tentative date of September 16th, 2024 has been proposed for the ribbon cutting to open the new lagoon trail and restored wetlands.

Announcements: SDRP JPA has been selected as one of two charities for the 2024 Red Nose Run in Del Mar.

Watershed Explorers Camp: Director Anderson summarized the schedule of events and details that took place last June 2024 with the Watershed Explorers Camp. The Escondido Explorers Program was sponsored by the State Outdoor Equity Grant and led by SDRP Interpretive Rangers and Partners to benefit the underserved youth in Escondido.

Public Comment – Don Wendt from the Ramona Trails Association shared the plan to rename the Luelf Pond Trail to the Degenfelder Trail to commemorate the Degenfelder family’s contribution to the Ramona trails system. He is seeking donations to fund this project.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Consider revisions to CAC Bylaws to clarify Property Owner representative appointments** - Director Anderson explained the proposed change to the CAC Bylaws to clarify Section IV, Item D to add the wording “and appoint their alternates as recommended by the CAC”.

The revision was approved by the CAC Committee with a unanimous vote in favor.
Abstain: None

2. **Approve alternates for Property Owner representatives** – Director Anderson provided details about the Property Owner’s alternate representatives and the proposal for Paul Bernstein to become the alternate representative for the property owner Bob Dudley and for Lois Jones to become the alternate representative for the property owner Chris Khoury. The appointment of the alternate representatives will be subject to the JPA Board approval.

The appointment of the alternate representatives was approved by the CAC Committee with a unanimous vote in favor.
Abstain: None

3. **Lake Hodges Update –**

Chair Khoury summarized the history and current status of Lake Hodges water level and dam conditions.

Lake Hodges property owners, Bob Dudley, Brian Caldwell, Bill Coons, Paul Bernstein and John Anshus provided presented information addressing potential upstream effect of the lowered Lake Hodges water level at 140-feet. Discussion items included wildlife protection, ecosystem, water availability and consumption needs for the surrounding community, residential risk factors due to wildfires, lake recreation and underserved populations limited recreation resources.

Chair Khoury made a motion to bring before the JPA Board to ask the City of San Diego to evaluate and consider upstream consequences, including wildfire risk, in making decisions about appropriate water levels for Lake Hodges. Jeff Barnouw seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Abstain: None

4. **East San Pasqual CTC Gap Presentation -**

Director Anderson provided background information on the CTC Gap project funded by the Conservancy and JPA Get-to-71 campaign that raised over \$2,000,000 for the study, design, and environmental for two long gaps in the Coast to Crest Trail.

One gap is the East San Pasqual Valley gap, which extends five miles from Hwy 78 and Bandy Canyon Road to Boden Canyon. Director Anderson explained the challenges associated with aligning a trail through San Pasqual Valley including adjacency to habitat for endangered species and active orchards. She explained details of three alternative alignments being considered by the JPA's team to be documented in a feasibility study and that the study when completed will be available to all CAC members and the public.

No action was taken.

5. **Committee Reports**

a. **Project Review Committee** – The June 2024 meeting was cancelled. JPA staff and the PRC reviewed the LOSSAN Notice of Preparation and prepared a comment letter that was approved by the JPA Board for submittal .

b. **Trails Committee** – Candice Bowman reported that the SDRP trail user survey was completed in June by Committee members and other volunteers. She noted the heat advisory in effect for the inland areas during the survey, but that trail use was nevertheless heavy in some areas. The survey involved counting users, capturing zip codes, and the type of user. She shared the survey results, which were consistent with ranger observations, and stressed the importance of quantifying trail usage for future grant applications and trail management. She also stated that further trail studies will be performed in the future.

- c. **Interpretation Committee** – No report.

INFORMATION

Horsepark Trail (oral report) – Director Anderson reported on her meeting with Dustin Fuller and Carlene Moore from the 22nd Agricultural District regarding the Horsepark Trail bridge repairs. The scope of work for the repair is being developed by the State contractor and that the timeline remains unknown. The HP operator HITS is responsible for the runoff damage on the trail wash out and is making progress towards determining the material needs and method of repair to restore the trail.

Osuna Trail Segment of CTC Trail (oral) - Director Anderson reported that the project is tentatively docketed on October 24th City of San Diego Planning Commission hearing for approval of the site development permit. Final engineering and additional regulatory permitting will take place over the next several months.

Coast to Crest Gaps Planning Studies (oral) – Information was provided under Discussion/Action Item 4.

Other Park Updates (oral report) – no report

Correspondence – JPA LOSSAN NOP comment letter

Chair Khoury adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.