
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of April 18, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill MacDonald - Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Joe LaCava
Consuelo Martinez
Terry Gaasterland

REPRESENTING

City of Solana Beach
Citizens Advisory Committee
City of San Diego District 1
City of Escondido
City of Del Mar

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Joel Anderson
Marni von Wilpert
Jenny Maeda
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
County of San Diego Dist. 2
City of San Diego Dist. 5
City of Poway
22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Wayne Brechtel
Shannon Quigley-Raymond
Brian Elliot, Alternate
Alyssa Muto
Carol Kerridge

REPRESENTING

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel
County Parks & Recreation Department
City of San Diego District 1
City of Solana Beach
Del Mar Lagoon Committee

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair MacDonald convened the meeting at 11:23 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum of five board members were present to begin the meeting. Chair MacDonald announced and welcomed the City of Solana Beach Manager Alyssa Muto.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of March 21, 2025

Board Member Gaasterland moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Khoury seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Gaasterland

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson, von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Anderson announced upcoming SDRP events including the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on May 18th, and a lagoon wetland workshop regarding So Cal Edison's restoration project on May 6th. She stated that Board Members MacDonald and Martinez are confirmed to attend the volunteer party to thank volunteers and distribute volunteer awards and also invited all Board Members to attend.

CAC Chair's Report – Board Member Khoury stated nothing to report as there was not an April 2025 CAC meeting.

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Recommendation of JPA Budget Ad-hoc Committee to Approve Draft FY25-26 Operating Budget. Recommendation: Approve Ad-hoc Budget Committee Recommendation to Approve Proposed FY25-26 Operating Budget.**

Chair MacDonald reported that the budget subcommittee, comprising herself, Board Member La Cava, and Board Member Martinez, in collaboration with Executive Director Anderson, convened twice. She confirmed that the FY25-26 budget received their unanimous approval without any amendments.

Executive Director Anderson provided a comprehensive summary of the proposed budget, including detailed information and supporting documentation. She explained the projected revenue sources and expenses for the FY25-26 budget, emphasizing the importance of JPA staff to fulfill the JPA's obligations and the proposed 4.71% increase in member agency contributions to fund an increase for employee wages, benefits, and two promotions. She provided a history of JPA revenue sources and amounts from 2020 through 2025 emphasizing the large amount of grants and other revenue sources that leverage the member agency contributions.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Gaasterland stated her support for increasing wages to retain staff and moved to approve the Proposed FY25-26 JPA Operating Budget with a modification to increase the member agency contributions to the JEPA cap of 5% instead of 4.71%. Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Gaasterland

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson, von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

2. **Resolution for Grant Application to Del Mar Foundation for Interpretive Panels Recommendation: Approve JPA Resolution 25-1 for grant application to Del Mar Foundation and authorize Executive Director to execute grant should it be awarded.**

Executive Director Anderson introduced Carol Kerridge from the Del Mar Lagoon Committee, who proposed adding an interpretive panel at the Grand Avenue Overlook to acknowledge the history and culture of the local Kumeyaay Nation in the Del Mar area.

Director Anderson provided detailed information and photographs of the existing interpretive panels, explaining the proposed redesign and replacement of one panel, as well as the addition of the Kumeyaay panel at the Grand Avenue Overlook. She explained her proposal to submit a grant application to the Del Mar Foundation to secure funding for this initiative and the resolution required for the application.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member Martinez moved to approve JPA Resolution 25-1 for grant application to Del Mar Foundation and authorize Executive Director to execute the grant should it be awarded. Board Member Gaasterland seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Gaasterland

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Anderson, von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

3. **LOSSAN Alternative Alignments Update (Oral Report)**

Recommendation: None

Executive Director Anderson reported that a private citizen from Del Mar contacted her regarding an effort to organize a facilitated stakeholder mediation-style confidential meeting to discuss and reach a consensus on requesting SANDAG to add another alternative to the LOSSAN Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document. Anderson explained her understanding that the citizen is interested in a rail alignment on the north side of the river between the Fairgrounds and Interstate-5.

She explained that various rail alignments were presented at SANDAG's February 28th public hearing, and attendees provided comments on a conceptual northern alignment on the north side of the river extending to the freeway but that the SANDAG board did not appear to authorize adding another alignment to the NOP. The Del Mar citizen asked if the JPA would want to participate in the stakeholder confidential mediation.

Anderson was told that the invited stakeholders include the 22nd Agricultural District, the cities of Del Mar, Solana Beach, and San Diego, and JPA. The stakeholders would be expected to share the cost of a mediator. Executive Director Anderson emphasized the importance of the JPA's participation to represent potential impacts on the San Dieguito Lagoon but that no position would be taken before the JPA reviews the potential impacts in the Draft EIR. She requested authorization to represent the JPA should the stakeholder meeting proceed.

General Counsel Brechtel explained the unusual process of requesting confidential mediation for this situation in the absence of litigation and that new alternatives can be recommended during the NOP process

Board Members' Discussion:

Board members discussed the pros and cons of participating and decided that the JPA does not agree to a confidential closed meeting but would be interested in participating in an open stakeholder discussion led by a facilitator.

Public Comment- none

INFORMATION

4. Project Status Updates

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – JPA staff reported that the project is proceeding in the final engineering stage and coordinating with OMWD on the recycled water pipeline location.
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Project on hold temporarily due to the LOSSAN rail alignment and Del Mar Living Levee project planning.
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – No report.
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Anderson reported that donor tours will be scheduled for both segments soon with more details and information about the alignments and infrastructure being proposed. She is working with County Parks to schedule a meeting with the California Fish and Wildlife about the East San Pasqual proposed highway trail bridge on their property.

7. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy** – Board Member Khoury shared the Conservancy recently received a \$1.3 million dollar donation designated for land acquisition. They are considering two acquisitions in the San Dieguito watershed.
- 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 -

Board Member Martinez expressed gratitude to the Conservancy for their San Dieguito River Park booth at the City of Escondido's Earth Day event on April 5th. She also extended an invitation to other agencies to attend the first Indigenous Arts & Culture Festival at Grape Day Park on April 19th.

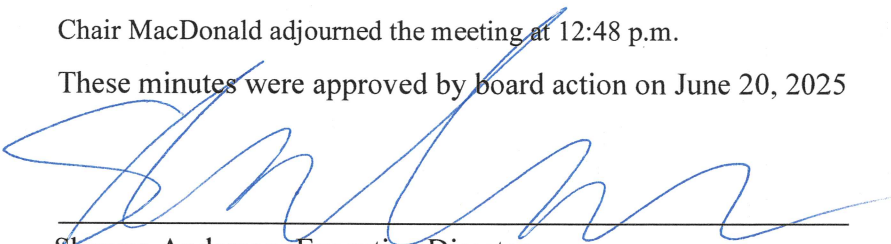
Executive Director Anderson announced that the Belgian Waffle Ride (BWR) will take place within the San Dieguito River Park and surrounding areas on April 27th, and that their organization provides a large donation to the JPA for use of the trails. She also provided an update on the Escondido Explorers Program, which is occurring from April 14th to April 18th, including an overnight campout on April 26th.

Board Member La Cava informed the board that the public has voted for the Blue Eyed Grass as the new City of San Diego's official flower. This decision will be considered by the council on April 22nd. The criteria for selecting the flower included that it must be native, not threatened or endangered, and have both a Spanish name and a Kumeyaay name.

9. Correspondence – None

Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

These minutes were approved by board action on June 20, 2025



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director