
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of June 20, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill MacDonald - Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Joe LaCava
Consuelo Martinez
Andrew Hayes, Alternate
Jenny Maeda
Dustin Fuller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Terry Gaasterland
Marni von Wilpert

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Wayne Brechtel
Lizzy Bendrick
Brian Elliot, Alternate
Maggie Brown
Karen Lare
Udo Wahn

REPRESENTING

City of Solana Beach
Citizens Advisory Committee
City of San Diego District 1
City of Escondido
County of San Diego Dist. 2
City of Poway
22nd Agricultural District, Ex Officio

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
City of Del Mar
City of San Diego Dist. 5

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
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley
Del Mar Lagoon Committee
Del Mar Lagoon Committee

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair MacDonald convened the meeting at 11:02 a.m. A roll call was taken and a quorum of six board members were present to begin the meeting. Chair MacDonald announced and welcomed the County of San Diego Dist. 2 newly designated alternate, Andrew Hayes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of April 18, 2025

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

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Hayes, Maeda

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Gaasterland, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Shawna Anderson provided the following updates:

Director Anderson announced the successful acquisition of an Outdoor Equity Vehicle, funded through grants from the County of San Diego, District 3, and the Dickinson Foundation. The vehicle will support the Interpretive Ranger Program and enhance outreach and educational efforts.

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Party was successfully held and well attended, with participation from several JPA Board members. Numerous volunteers were recognized for their exceptional service, and Legacy Awards were presented to John Degenfelder and Carol Carr in recognition of their long-term dedication to the San Dieguito River Park.

Director Anderson reported that the San Dieguito Lagoon project received the American Public Works Association (APWA) Award for Project of the Year, along with a civil engineering award, acknowledging the project's excellence in design and implementation.

The third year of the Outdoor Equity Escondido Explorers Program concluded in April 2025. Director Anderson noted it was the most successful iteration to date, with high participation.

Director Anderson provided an update on the W-19 restoration project and summarized the 2025 annual monitoring and performance report for the San Dieguito Phase I Wetlands Restoration Project (SCE project). She stated that the SCE restoration did not meet its performance standards in 2024 and has not obtained any mitigation credits to date and reminded the Board Members that the JPA's responsibility as the project long-term manager does not begin until 30 years of project mitigation credits are granted by the Coastal Commission.

CAC Chair's Report – Board Member Khoury reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has consistently exceeded quorum at its recent meetings, reflecting strong member engagement and participation.

At their June meeting, the CAC discussed and voted on the recommendation for the JPA's e-bike policy for item #4 of this JPA agenda. The CAC also heard a presentation from EcoLogik, a youth-led citizen science group. The presentation focused on water quality testing in the San Dieguito River and was well received by committee members.

Additionally, Mr. Khoury reported that Eric Jones, representing the Volcan Mountain Foundation, delivered a presentation at the same meeting. Mr. Jones provided an impressive overview of the Foundation's history, mission, community engagement, and organizational growth.

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. FY24-25 Q3 Budget Report and Coast Q1 Report

Recommendation: none

Executive Director Shawna Anderson presented the San Dieguito River Park JPA Operations Budget Summary for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024–2025, along with the Coast Budget Summary for the first quarter of the 2025 calendar year. Director Anderson reported that both budgets are currently on track. She noted that the fourth quarter Operations Budget report will be prepared soon with end of year budget results.

Public Comment- no public comment

2. **Comment Letter for LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project reissued NOP**

Recommendation: Approve Staff comment letter in response to updated LOSSAN Notice of Preparation.

Environmental Planner Nathan Lacy provided an overview of the updated Notice of Preparation (NOP) released by SANDAG on May 16, 2025, for the San Diego LOSSAN Rail Realignment Project. The updated NOP follows the receipt of over 1,500 public comments received after the original submittal.

JPA staff prepared a revised comment letter addressing potential impacts to the San Dieguito Lagoon, particularly from the “San Dieguito Bridge to I-5” alignment and its northerly variation. Other alternatives reviewed include alignments under Crest Canyon, Camino Del Mar, and the Del Mar Bluffs, as well as a No Build option. Staff emphasized that several alternatives may result in surface or subterranean impacts to the Focused Planning Area (FPA).

The Board was asked to approve the revised comment letter for submission by the June 30, 2025, deadline. Staff also anticipates submitting a formal comment letter during the Draft EIR public review period.

The Board Members discussed the rail realignment alternatives, construction processes, feasibility and environmental impacts.

Public Comment- no public comment

Board Member MacDonald moved to approve the Staff comment letter in response to updated LOSSAN Notice of Preparation and Board Member Khoury seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Hayes, Maeda

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Gaasterland, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

3. **Horsepark Coast to Crest Trail Update**

Recommendation: None

Executive Director Anderson reported that repairs to the Horsepark Trail have been successfully completed by JPA rangers following an agreement with the Horsepark operator, HITS, to address a washed-out section of the trail. Additionally, a second agreement between HITS and the JPA has enabled the establishment of a detour around the sinking bridge, allowing the trail to be reopened for public use.

Director Anderson noted that collaborative efforts between the JPA and the 22nd District Agricultural Association are ongoing to identify a long-term solution for repairing the sinking bridge. Ex-Officio Board Member Dustin Fuller recommended that in the interest of a long-term solution that the JPA Board formally request that HITS consider an alternate sustainable route through Horsepark. He noted that other areas along the trail are subject to erosion, either from tidal action or runoff.

Public Comment- no public comment

4. **E-bike Policy and Discussion**

Recommendation: Affirm current JPA e-bike policy and/or provide staff with other guidance.

Executive Director Anderson provided an overview of the San Dieguito River Park JPA's current e-bike internal policy, in place since 2019, which permits Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on all SDRP trails where traditional bicycles are allowed. This policy aligns with the regulations of the JPA's member agency jurisdictions.

In light of increased e-bike usage and related concerns regarding safety, trail maintenance, and user conflicts, JPA staff and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) have been monitoring trends and evaluating other jurisdictions' policies. Executive Director Anderson specifically noted the County's recent thorough review of its e-bike policy and its conclusion to continue allowing e-bikes on all County trails where regular bicycles are allowed. She noted that e-bikes are not allowed in a few County preserves but none are located in the SDRP. At its June 6, 2025 meeting, the CAC recommended maintaining the JPA's current policy and enhancing trail signage and public education to clarify where e-bikes are permitted and to ensure e-bike classification labels are visible. Staff supports the CAC's recommendation to improve signage and outreach regarding e-bike use and etiquette. Director Anderson noted enforcement challenges due to the difficulty in identifying modified or unclassified e-bikes. JPA rangers, supported by volunteer patrols, continue to educate trail users and enforce rules using non-citation methods.

The Board was asked to affirm the current policy or provide alternative direction. Board members asked for clarification of the signage content and the impact on the trails due to e-bike use. Director Anderson stated that JPA rangers have not noticed maintenance impacts to its trails from e-bike usage and that staff would work with the CAC Trails Committee on signage content.

Board Member La Cava moved to approve and affirm the current JPA e-bike policy and Board Member Martinez seconded the motion.

Public Comment- none

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, Khoury, LaCava, Martinez, Hayes, Maeda

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Gaasterland, von Wilpert

Abstain: None

INFORMATION

5. **Project Status Updates**

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – JPA staff reported that the project is continuing to make progress but several unique challenges have slowed the project and that staff is preparing a detailed timeline to meet the grant deadline.
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – No report.
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – Covered in Directors Report.
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Anderson reported that she and the Conservancy had planned a donor tour for all CTC Trail gap campaign donors for a project update and trail alignment tour, but RSVPs were low so a presentation at the Lagoon Ranger Station was given instead. Turnout was low thus a progress letter will be sent as a follow-up. . The San

Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is sponsoring a video that will highlight the CTC Gaps and the progress being made which will be presented during their Valley Vibes event.

Director Anderson reported that work is continuing with the consultants and preparation of the CEQA analysis has begun. The engineers are working out details on bridges and crossings, etc. Further details will be reported once available.

6. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy** – No report
- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley**- Maggie Brown inquired about a state-mandated disaster evacuation plan and how it is being implemented at the Surf Cup Sports Complex. She also reported that collaborative efforts are ongoing with the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy to address fishing-related concerns at the San Dieguito Lagoon.
- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – No report
- d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee** – Karen Lare reported on ongoing concerns related to fishing activity at the San Dieguito Lagoon. She informed the Board of a recent permit application submitted by the Southern California Edison (SCE) monitoring team for the installation of a continuous monitoring device on one of the lagoon bridges, which is expected to enhance understanding of lagoon flow dynamics.

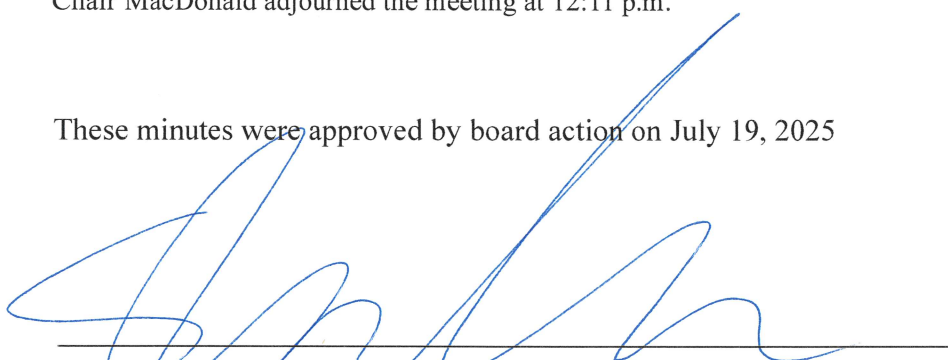
Ex-Officio Board Member Dustin Fuller, representing the 22nd District Agricultural Association, requested contact information for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assist in protecting least tern nesting sites that are being disturbed by fishing activity.

7. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** –Ex-Officio Board Member Dustin Fuller provided an update on recent coordination efforts. He reported that signed rights of entry and construction permits have been executed with agencies associated with the City's El Camino Real Bridge Replacement Project. Mr. Fuller also noted that the Del Mar Fair is currently underway and for a second year hosting the Eco Hut environmental education and sustainability information booth with several participating organizations including the SDRVC.

8. Correspondence – None

Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

These minutes were approved by board action on July 19, 2025



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director