
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of September 19, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill MacDonald - Chair
Joe LaCava
Consuelo Martinez
Andrew Hayes, Alternate
Jenny Maeda
Tracy Martinez, Alternate
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Marni von Wilpert
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
City of San Diego Dist. 5
Citizens Advisory Committee

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Wayne Brechtel
Lizzy Bendrick
Brain Elliot

REPRESENTING

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

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair MacDonald convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. She introduced Tracy Martinez, attending for the first time as the alternate representative from the City of Del Mar. A roll call was taken and a quorum of six board members were present to begin the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of July 18, 2025

Board Member Alternate Hayes moved to approve the minutes and Chair MacDonald seconded the motion. All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, Maeda, Hayes

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, von Wilpert, Khoury

Abstain: T. Martinez

Executive Director's Report

Presented by: Executive Director Anderson

Fairgrounds Master Plan: Anderson reported that the 22nd District Agricultural Association is conducting open houses and presentations at surrounding communities to start their public outreach for the Fairgrounds MP. She reported that a presentation is scheduled for the next JPA Board meeting on October 17, 2025. JPA staff is also meeting with Fairgrounds representatives on October 14, 2025.

LOSSAN Project Update: SANDAG met with JPA staff for a project update and reported that they are studying the feasibility of a rail alignment on the north side of the river adjacent to the Fairgrounds that may be added as a new northern alternative. Geotechnical borings to be conducted in coming weeks. An updated NOP is expected next summer. Anderson raised concerns regarding environmental impacts to the lagoon and public access. Recommendation: Invite SANDAG to present to the Board before NOP release.

Ranger Staffing Updates: Anderson reported that three rangers submitted notices and leaving the JPA for other opportunities and two replacements have been hired with a third in process Ranger Aides Dylan Delgado and Alex Bedoya.

Outdoor Equity Vehicle is in service and recently used for ranger-led activities on the Mule Hill CTC Trail including the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society and Interpretation Committee.

Harrah's Resort "All In 4 Change" Program: Watershed Explorers Program selected as grant award finalist to be announced at an awards ceremony in September with awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Upcoming Events: Autumn Harvest Tea (November 15–16, 2025) and Artisan Fair (December 7, 2025), both at Sikes Adobe.

CAC Chair's Report – No report

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. **Caltrans Mitigation Property Transfer**

Recommendation: Approve staff's recommendation to accept ownership of Caltrans I5 Mitigation parcel and authorize the Executive Director to take any and all further actions to complete the transaction.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the acceptance of ownership of a 23-acre parcel currently owned by Caltrans, located east of I-5 and adjacent to the W-19 restoration project. The parcel was originally designated as mitigation for I-5 improvements. JPA signed a contract with SANDAG in 2016 for long-term management of the site with an endowment, but the contract did not address transfer of ownership.

Staff, with legal counsel now seeks Board approval to formally accept title to the property. The parcel has already been restored and met its mitigation criteria in 2020. The JPA has been anticipating management responsibilities, supported by an endowment that has grown from \$270,000 to over \$461,000, held at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation. This endowment will fund ongoing management activities such as species surveys, litter and weed control, and annual reporting.

The conservation easement and land transfer agreement have been reviewed and approved by staff and legal counsel, with final approval pending from the California Transportation Commission (expected January). The property is near other JPA-managed lands, and ownership is not expected to add significant burden beyond current operations.

Board Comments:

- Confirmed that Caltrans has met all mitigation obligations and no further monitoring is required.
- Acknowledged that the endowment is sufficient for ongoing management.

Public Comment- no comment

Board member LaCava moved to approve staff recommendation and board member alternate Hayes seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez, C. Martinez, Maeda, Hayes

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, von Wilpert, Khoury

Abstain: None

2. FY24-25 Year End Budget Report

Recommendation: Board to acknowledge and file FY 24-25 year-end budget report.

Revenues slightly exceeded budget projections due to higher-than-projected habitat endowment distributions and successful fundraising events. Expenditures slightly exceeded budget projections in vehicle maintenance and fuel. Net surplus of approximately \$5,000. Discussion included fundraising restrictions, endowment performance, and donation mechanisms. Motion to acknowledge and file the report passed unanimously.

Chair MacDonald made a motion to approve the recommendation and board member C. Martinez seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez, C. Martinez, Maeda, Hayes

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, von Wilpert, Khoury

Abstain: None

Public Comment- None

3. Status of Proposed Removal of Deed Restrictions on City of San Diego Open Space (Oral)

Recommendation: none

An oral update was provided by Executive Director Anderson regarding proposed removal of deed restrictions on City of San Diego open space lands in the area east of El Camino Real and north of San Dieguito Road, currently leased to Surf Cup Sports and Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, and adjacent to the Coast to Crest Trail. As directed at their July 18, 2025 meeting, JPA submitted a formal letter to the San Diego City Council opposing the removal of deed restrictions. Numerous other organizations and individuals, including the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, also submitted letters, demonstrating broad concern and engagement.

Originally reported to be considered by the City Council in September, the item is now anticipated to be scheduled for an October or November meeting. Anderson stated that the additional timeline allows time for the potential drafting of a letter to the editor, which had previously been discussed by the Board. Director Anderson offered to draft the letter and collaborate with Board members. Chair MacDonald expressed support and willingness to co-sign the letter.

Public Comment- None

4. Status of Horsepark Trail Bridge (Oral)

Recommendation: none

Director Anderson provided an update on the Horsepark Trail Bridge, located on the CTC Trail on property owned by the 22nd DAA and leased to HITS. The trail has reopened with a detour around the sinking bridge, which is functioning well with no reported issues. Additional signage has been installed to support trail users.

She reported that the 22nd DAA has obtained engineering estimates for recommended repairs to the culvert under the bridge, including riprap and headwall extension, which would require permits from the Coastal Commission and other agencies. These repairs do not address the bridge foundation and are expected to be costly.

Anderson reported that she is exploring alternative options including the purchase of a new prefabricated bridge with a wider span, estimated at \$78,000 for a 60-foot bridge. A new bridge would eliminate foundation issues and could be reused in the future if trail alignment changes. A field visit with JPA staff and consultants is scheduled for October 2 to assess whether a shorter, less expensive span would suffice and to discuss other repair options.

Funding for either option is currently unavailable. Ex Officio Board member Dustin Fuller reported that the DAA's new Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Sile, is reviewing the project and exploring alternatives. No final direction has been determined, and the project was not budgeted for 2025.

There is urgency due to an agreement with HITS allowing the detour only through the end of the year. Staff plans to negotiate an extension and will report back with updates.

Board Comments:

- Support expressed for efforts to extend the detour agreement.
- Acknowledgment that repairs would take 9+ months, reinforcing the need for a longer-term plan.
- Suggestion to explore funding options, including potential support from the Conservancy.

INFORMATION

5. Project Status Updates

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – Bridge location adjusted approximately 10 feet to avoid underground pipeline in OMWD easement. Coordination with OMWD ongoing; permits not expected to be impacted.
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Project on hold due to future LOSSAN railroad alignment uncertainty. Trails Committee exploring alternative monument locations.
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – Working to finalize access easements.
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Planning progressing well; . Ongoing coordination with San Diego Public Utilities and County Parks. Ongoing discussions

between California Fish and Wildlife and San Diego County regarding proposed trail bridge over Highway 78.

6. 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

7. Jurisdictional Status Reports –

Presented by: Dustin Fuller from the 22nd Agricultural District

New Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Mike Sile has joined and is reviewing the Horsepark Trail Bridge project.

Fairgrounds Master Plan: Public input in process including presentations scheduled with cities across the county and public open houses to gather input. Format includes topic-based stations and overview of Fairgrounds campuses. Confirmed that MP team is scheduled to present at next JPA Board meeting, October 17.

Coastal Cleanup Day: Scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Cleanup will occur along the Coast to Crest Trail and surrounding areas beginning at San Andres Drive, Del Mar.

8. Correspondence –

- a. JPA 7/24/2025 letter to City of San Diego re Removal of Deed Restrictions on City Owned Open Space
- b. JPA LOSSAN NOP letter

Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 11:45am

These minutes were approved by board action on October 17, 2025



Shawna Anderson, Executive Director