

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of December 5, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Khoury
Rich Risner
Bob Byrnes
Candice Bowman
Kelly Clemshaw
Udo Wahn
Liz Gabrych
Dorothy McLin
Victoria Touchstone
Jeremy Blakespear
Jennifer Dissler
Peter Shapiro
Pam Heatherington
Bob Dudley
Bill Adelson

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Architects
California Native Plant Society
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Del Mar Lagoon Committee
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Rancho Bernardo Planning Board
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Mountain Biking Assoc.
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Sierra Club
San Pasqual Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Paul Bernstein
Kevin Kidd

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Pasqual Property Owner, Alt
President of the Del Dios Town Council

Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM. A roll call was taken with 15 committee members present to begin the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – 11-7-25

No amendments or changes were needed for the draft minutes. Pam Heatherington made the motion to approve the minutes and Vicki Touchstone seconded the motion.

All members were in favor.

Abstain: None

Chair's Report – Chair Khoury thanked members for attending and emphasized the importance of not only preserving nature but also experiencing it firsthand, paraphrasing Edward Abbey: “It is important not only to preserve nature, but while doing so, to get out and enjoy it.” Members were encouraged to take opportunities to do so.

Executive Director's Report –

Executive Director Anderson welcomed attendees and highlighted upcoming and recent events. She promoted the Red Nose Run/Walk on Saturday, December 13, at Del Mar Powerhouse Park, a 3K and 5K beach walk/run benefiting the San Dieguito River Park and Semper Fi America's Fund. The River Park has been a beneficiary for four years, receiving several thousand dollars annually for trail related work. Anderson and three rangers will attend, and the Park will host a table.

Anderson reported that the Harvest Tea at Sikes Adobe was well attended and modeled after the successful Valentine's Tea. Revenue figures are being finalized to determine if it will be repeated. She also encouraged attendance at the Artisan Fair at Sikes Adobe on Sunday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring over 20 artist booths. This is the first Artisan Fair, with hopes of making it an annual event.

Finally, Anderson announced plans to retire next year, likely in June. At the upcoming JPA Board meeting, a recruitment committee will be appointed to begin the process of hiring a new Executive Director. Anderson expressed mixed feelings about retiring, citing a desire to spend more time with family, travel, and complete key projects such as the Osuna Trail before departure. She emphasized her deep appreciation for the River Park and the rewarding experience of serving as Executive Director.

Public Comment –

CAC members Bob Dudley and Paul Bernstein, representing San Pasqual Property Owners, updated the committee on efforts to raise Lake Hodges' water level, citing broad community support, ecological and fire safety concerns, and economic impacts from reliance on costly desalinated water. They requested a renewed letter of support from the JPA to elected officials. Executive Director Anderson clarified that the CAC cannot act independently; and that the item is not on today's agenda and would need to be placed on a future agenda to discuss and make a recommendation for JPA Board review and approval. Anderson suggested waiting for the City's alternatives analysis before taking a position. Chair Khoury will report this discussion at the next JPA meeting and add it as an agenda item for the next CAC meeting. He commended Bob and Paul for their advocacy.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Election of 2026 Officers for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Khoury noted that the current two-year terms for Chair and Vice Chair will conclude at the end of 2025. He expressed willingness to serve one final two-year term as Chair, consistent with the six-year maximum outlined in the bylaws.

Chair Khoury reported that Vice Chair Barnouw, who was unable to attend, declined renomination and supports nominating Jeremy Blakespear as Vice Chair. Mr. Blakespear stated that he would accept the nomination.

Chair Khoury invited additional nominations; none were offered.

Motion: Bob Dudley moved to elect Chair Khoury and Jeremy Blakespear as nominated.

Second: Peter Shapiro.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Abstain: None.

Following the vote, Jeremy Blakespear provided a brief introduction, sharing his background in conservation and cycling and describing his role representing the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition.

2. Polo Fields Trail (Oral report)

Environmental Planner Nathan Lacy reported that Surf Cup Sports, with Recon Environmental as their contractor and project manager, plans to complete the Coast to Crest Trail segment by the end of 2026, ahead of the June 2027 deadline. Initial site preparation, invasive species removal, and silt fencing installation have begun to prevent sediment from entering the river during clearing. Lacy reported that he attended a pre-construction meeting on November 18 where the project team and City inspector identified grading and drainage revisions. Revised plans are under review, and Surf Cup will provide bi-weekly updates to JPA staff. Native revegetation plans remain unchanged, and sensitive species monitoring will occur throughout construction.

CAC members raised access concerns regarding locked gates on the Surf Cup site; Anderson confirmed this will be followed up, noting Surf Cup could provide pedestrian access without parking. No new buildings or lighting are planned, and construction is limited to the trail corridor south of the soccer fields.

3. Committee Reports

Project Review Committee – Vicki Touchstone member of the PRC reported that they will monitor the Surf Cup trail construction and review the proposed Silvergate development in Rancho Santa Fe, which is in the JPA’s Focused Planning Area and still in early planning stages. The committee is also working with JPA staff on reviewing and updating the Concept Plan development guidelines which will be presented to the CAC for recommendation to the JPA Board in the near future. These updates will strengthen standards that have not been revised since initially drafted.

Trails Committee – Candy Bowman of the Trails Committee reported that she will send the survey results for presentation at a future JPA Board meeting

Interpretation Committee – The Interpretation Committee did not meet and there was no report.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members briefly discussed fire management within the focus planning area, specifically the potential use of goats for vegetation control. Executive Director Anderson noted that goats have been utilized by others in the past for targeted invasive species but not common practice at a large scale. Anderson further clarified that the JPA’s responsibilities are limited to maintaining fire breaks and removing invasive species on JPA-owned or managed properties. Individual property owners remain responsible for managing fire risk on their respective lands.

INFORMATION

Horsepark Trail Repairs (oral report) - No report

Osuna Trail Segment of CTC Trail (oral report) - No report

Correspondence – None

An announcement was made that the January 2, 2026 CAC meeting would be canceled due to the holiday.

Chair Khoury adjourned the meeting at 11:59 AM.