

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 5, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Khoury
Rich Risner
Candice Bowman
Kelly Clemshaw
Udo Wahn
Polly Wheatley
Liz Gabrych
Dorothy McLin
Patty Heyden
Jeremy Blakespear
Jennifer Disser
Peter Shapiro
Jim Smith
Jeff Barnouw
Kristina Leyva
Bob Dudley
Neil Meyer

REPRESENTING

CAC, Chair
American Society of Landscape Architects
Carmel Valley Planning Board
Del Dios Town Council
Del Mar Lagoon Committee
Friends of San Dieguito River Valley
League of Women Voters
Lomas Serenas Property Owners
Ramona Trails Assoc.
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Mountain Biking Assoc.
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Torrey Pines Community Planning Group
Coastal Property Owner
Coastal Property Owner
San Pasqual Property Owner
Eastern Property Owner

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Leana Bulay

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
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Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Khoury called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM. A roll call was taken with a quorum of 17 committee members present to begin the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – 5/1/2026

No amendments or changes were requested for the draft minutes. Peter Shapiro made the motion to approve the minutes and Liz Gabrych seconded the motion.

All members were in favor.

Abstain: None

Chair's Report –

Chair Khoury summarized the May 15, 2026 JPA meeting:

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's Interim Executive Director, Crystal Trull, provided a presentation emphasizing the continued collaboration between the Conservancy and the JPA, including the importance of leveraging matching funds to secure grant funding for land acquisition, trail development, and habitat restoration. The Conservancy's endowment fund established in 2024 and

dedicated to the JPA's annual operations, now exceeding \$500,000, was noted as an important source of support for JPA operating costs.

The Chair also reported on the April 27 letter sent to the City of San Diego regarding Lake Hodges water levels, encouraging consideration of additional factors and increased coordination with the California Division of Safety of Dams. A response from the Public Utilities Department is pending. The Chair further provided an update on the Executive Director recruitment process, noting that a recruitment committee of the JPA Board was established, approximately 30 candidates were screened, two finalists were interviewed, and Leana Bulay, the JPA's Senior Interpretive Ranger, was selected as the next Executive Director.

Executive Director's Report – No Report

Public Comment –

- Patty Heyden (Ramona Trails Association) reported positive progress on the Santa Maria Creek Greenway project. A private landowner has committed to purchasing and donating approximately 8–10 parcels along the creek to the County, helping advance connectivity to the Coast to Crest Trail. Additional landowners may pursue similar actions.
- Bob Dudley (San Pasqual Property Owner) provided comments regarding ongoing water management issues at Lake Hodges, including concerns about non-operational pipeline infrastructure, significant repair needs, and potential inefficiencies related to anticipated El Niño conditions. He also expressed appreciation for the CAC's prior support and endorsement letter.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Farewell to Executive Director Shawna Anderson and Welcome Incoming Executive Director Leana Bulay

Chair Khoury formally announced the retirement of Executive Director Shawna Anderson, effective July 1, 2026, following 26 years of service to the San Dieguito River Park JPA.

Khoury read a formal statement recognizing Director Anderson's extensive contributions, including leadership in land acquisition, trail development, habitat restoration, and securing over \$6 million in grant funding, as well as co-leading a \$2 million fundraising effort for Coast to Crest Trail planning and design.

Committee members and staff provided remarks acknowledging Director Anderson's leadership, dedication, collaborative approach, and long-term impact on the River Park.

Director Anderson expressed appreciation for the CAC, staff, and partners, noting the importance of teamwork and the fulfillment of contributing to a public resource for the community.

Chair Khoury introduced Leana Bulay as the incoming Executive Director. Ms. Bulay was recognized for her 16 years of service leading the JPA's interpretive and education programs, including development of the Watershed Explorers program and public outreach initiatives.

Staffing updates were also provided, including the promotion of Interpretive Ranger Calei Heaslet to Senior Interpretive Ranger and recruitment for an Interpretive Ranger position. Ms. Anderson will remain available on a limited consultant basis to support transition efforts and ongoing projects.

2. Committee Reports

- a. **Project Review Committee** – No Report
- b. **Trails Committee** – Candy Bowman reported that the Trails Committee met on 6/2/2026 and discussed future direction. The committee reviewed ongoing concerns related to e-bike use on trails and discussed potential educational efforts, including a future CAC agenda item involving a presentation or demonstration.
- c. **Interpretation Committee** - Liz Gabrych reported that the committee did not meet and plans to reconvene in the summer, with a focus on identifying funding opportunities.

INFORMATION

Correspondence – None

Chair Khoury noted that the CAC will not meet in July due to the holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2026.

Chair Khoury adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.