
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of June 26, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill MacDonald – Chair
Chris Khoury – Vice Chair
Joe LaCava
Consuelo Martinez
Tracy Martinex (Alt)
Andrew Hayes (Alt)
Dustin Fuller

REPRESENTING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Marni von Wilpert
Jenny Maeda

REPRESENTING

County of San Diego Dist. 3
City of San Diego Dist. 5
City of Poway

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Shawna Anderson
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Leana Bulay
Wayne Brechtel
Shannon Quigley Raymond
Udo Wahn, M.D.
Joaquin Quintero
Joseph Rivera

REPRESENTING

San Dieguito River Park JPA
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 Del Mar Lagoon Committee
City of San Diego District 1 Community Rep.
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair MacDonald called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. with a quorum of six Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes of May 15, 2026

No corrections or additions were noted for the May 15, 2026 minutes. Board Member Alternate Hayes moved to approve the minutes and Board Member C. Martinez seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez(Alt), C. Martinez, Khoury, Hayes(Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report –

Executive Director Anderson delivered her final report, reflecting on more than 26 years of service to the JPA, including twenty years as Environmental Planner and six years as Executive Director. She expressed sincere gratitude to the JPA Board, partner agencies, and staff, emphasizing that strong collaboration has been central to the organization's success.

She highlighted the accomplishments achieved during her career and expressed confidence in the organization's future under incoming Executive Director Leana Bulay.

Board members and agency representatives offered remarks recognizing Ms. Anderson's leadership, institutional knowledge, dedication to the River Park mission, and mentorship of staff. A proclamation from the City of San Diego was presented, declaring June 30, 2026 as "Shawna Anderson Day," along with recognition from additional member agency jurisdictions.

CAC Chair's Report –

Vice Chair Khoury reported on the June 5 CAC meeting, noting that the primary focus was recognition of Executive Director Anderson's service and accomplishments. He stated that CAC members expressed strong appreciation for her leadership and long-term contributions to the River Park.

The introduction of incoming Executive Director Leana Bulay was met with enthusiastic and spontaneous support from CAC members.

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. FY26-27 Operations Budget Revise -

Executive Director Anderson presented revisions to the previously approved FY 2026–27 operations budget to reflect organizational and operational changes, including:

- Transition of Executive Director and staff promotions
- Training and professional development for incoming Executive Director
- Increased maintenance costs, including Hodges Bridge repairs
- Adjustments for fuel, office maintenance, and park operations
- Addition of limited-term project management support
- Contribution to the operating reserve

The revised budget reflects a slight net decrease from the originally approved amount, resulting in minor adjustments to member agency contributions.

Executive Anderson also recommended authorization to use the JPA's operating reserve to cover a one-time benefit payout associated with the Executive Director's retirement, noting this expense is not part of ongoing operations. It was noted that the FY26-27 budget would come back to the board as an amendment with the income transfer and expense adjustment once the final amount is obtained from the County.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Member LaCava moved to approve the FY26-27 Budget Revise and Authorize Use of JPA Operating Reserve for one-time expense and Board Chair MacDonald seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez(Alt), C. Martinez, Khoury, Hayes(Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Maeda
Abstain: None

2. Osuna Joint Use Agreement Amendment -

Executive Director Anderson explained that an amendment to the Joint Use Agreement with Olivenhain Municipal Water District previously approved in 2024 for the Coast to Crest Trail Osuna segment bridge project is required in response to project design.

The amendment reflects design changes required after engineering analysis identified unstable soils, necessitating deeper foundation piles. Due to uncertainties in the exact location of OMWD's existing underground pipeline, the bridge alignment was shifted approximately 10 feet outside the water district easement.

The amendment updates project plans, removes provisions no longer applicable, and clarifies construction parameters. The Olivenhain Municipal Water District approved the amended agreement on June 17, 2026.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Member LaCava moved to approve and authorize Executive Director to finalize and sign the Amended Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with OMWD for Osuna Segment of the Coast to Crest Trail and Board Member Alternate T. Martinez seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez(Alt), C. Martinez, Khoury, Hayes(Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

3. FY25-26 Operations Budget Amendment -

Executive Director Anderson presented a year-end amendment to the FY 2025–26 budget to reflect the purchase of an electric vehicle truck in the amount of \$46,500. The purchase was funded through the equipment reserve and required formal recognition in the budget.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Vice-Chair Khoury moved to approve to approve amended FY25-26 Operations Budget for purchase of Ford F-150 Lightning EV Truck and Board Chair MacDonald seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez(Alt), C. Martinez, Khoury, Hayes(Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

4. Approve Contract for New JPA Executive Director -

General Counsel Brechtel summarized the recruitment process, noting that approximately 35 applications were received, with a subset selected for interviews by the Board's Ad-hoc Recruitment Committee. Two finalists were interviewed by the full Board.

Following deliberation, the Board selected Leana Bulay based on her experience, familiarity with JPA operations, and demonstrated leadership.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Chair MacDonald moved to approve appointment of Leana Bulay as the new Executive Director for the JPA effective July 1, 2026, approve her starting salary and authorize General Counsel to finalize Ms. Bulay's employment contract with terms consistent with those that apply to the current Executive Director. Board Member C. Martinez seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Yes votes: MacDonald, LaCava, T. Martinez(Alt), C. Martinez, Khoury, Hayes(Alt)

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Maeda

Abstain: None

INFORMATION

5. Project Status Updates

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – See agenda Item 2
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Project timeline remains uncertain due to coordination with related planning efforts and grant deadlines. Staff is working with the City of Del Mar and grant agencies to determine next steps and ensure funding is preserved.
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – Ongoing coordination is needed regarding endowment funding and long-term management responsibilities.
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – No report
- e) **CTC Trail at Rio Run (Surf Cup)** – No Report
- f) **Interpretive and Educational Signage** - New Tidal Trail educational panel and updates to panels on the Grand Avenue Overlook are in development and will be presented at a future meeting.

5. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy** – Joseph Rivera gave updates that included education programs, volunteer events, and upcoming River Valley Fest (October 11). He also reported on progress for land acquisition grants and habitat restoration funding efforts.
- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley** – No report
- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – No report
- d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee** – Udo Wahn, M.D. raised concerns regarding new Coastal Commission signage related to marine protected areas and its clarity regarding fishing regulations. JPA Staff noted ongoing coordination with agencies and stakeholder groups to improve public understanding and compliance.

6. Jurisdictional Status Reports –

Board Member LaCava referenced concerns raised by members of the public at a prior Board meeting regarding activities at the Surf Cup Fields property. He reported that the City of San Diego had initiated

an investigation into those issues; however, he expressed that he was not fully satisfied with the responses received to date. Board Member LaCava stated that he intends to continue reviewing the matter and follow up with additional information at a future meeting.

Board members also raised broader concerns related to traffic congestion, emergency access, and coordination of large-scale events at the Surf Cup Fields in conjunction with the Del Mar Fair (San Diego County Fair), noting the need for improved communication and planning to address public safety and community impacts.

7. **Correspondence** – None

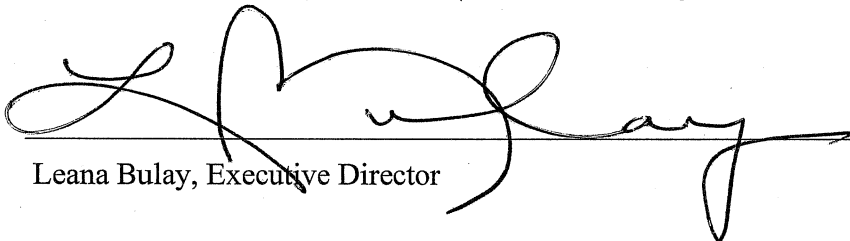
8. **Closed session with Legal Counsel:**

- a) Closed session with legal counsel pursuant to California Government Code Sec. 54956.9(d)(2) to discuss exposure to litigation.

Legal Counsel Brechtel reported the Board met in closed session on previously disclosed items, provided direction to legal counsel, and reported that no additional reportable actions were taken.

Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:25p.m. and reminded the board that the next regular JPA meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2026, at the County Administration Building, Room 302/303. Chair MacDonald also stated that Vice-Chair Khoury would act as Chair in her place for that meeting. Board Member C. Martinez also stated that she would not be available for the July 17, 2026 meeting.

These minutes were approved by Board action on August 21, 2026



Leana Bulay, Executive Director