
**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
Minutes of August 21, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terra Lawson-Remer
Marni von Wilpert
Terry Gaasterland

VISITORS/STAFF PRESENT

Leana Bulay
Dewanda Vandermost
Nathan Lacy
Wayne Brechtel
Nico De Paolo
Felipe Franco
Calei Heaslet
Gabriella Busalacchi
Alex Bedoya Jr.
Gerry Hardes
Jorge Valdivieso
Steve Scarano
Victor Uyeji
Ed Baer
Tom Walker
Brian Elliott
Lizzy Bendrick
Udo Wahn, M.D.
Crystal Trull
Dwight Worden
Camilla Rang
Mary Yang
Garima Pathak
Jeff Carmel

REPRESENTING

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

REPRESENTING

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

REPRESENTING

San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Dieguito River Park JPA, General Counsel
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
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
SDRP Dust Devils Volunteer
City of San Diego District 1(Alternate)
County Parks & Recreation Department
City of Del Mar Lagoon Committee
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project
Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project
Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project
Harshwal & Company LLP
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley

Introduction and Announcements:

Chair MacDonald called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. with a quorum of six Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance**Approval of the Minutes of June 26, 2026**

No corrections or additions were noted for the June 26, 2026 minutes. Board Member C. Martinez moved to approve the minutes and Board Member Alternate Hayes seconded the motion.

All in favor.

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

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Gaasterland

Abstain: None

Executive Director's Report –

Executive Director Bulay introduced Andrew Hayes, Board Member Alternate for County Supervisor Joel Anderson, who presented certificates of appreciation on behalf of Supervisor Anderson recognizing SDRP JPA staff and volunteers for their dedication and service during July's Parks and Recreation Month. Hayes also presented a County of San Diego Proclamation honoring former Executive Director Shawna Anderson and proclaiming August 21, 2026, as "Shawna Anderson Day."

Director Bulay further reported on World Ranger Day activities, a successful least tern nesting season, educational programs and internships, updates to the Watershed Explorer van and park kiosks, installation of new interpretive panels, ongoing improvements at Sikes Adobe, and continued progress on the Sikes Adobe Pavilion Project, including receipt of an additional \$30,000 grant.

CAC Chair's Report –

Vice Chair Chris Khoury reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee met on August 7, 2026.

Items discussed included:

- Enthusiastic support for the Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project.
- Discussion regarding an easement dispute.
- Continued public interest concerning Lake Hodges water levels and the lack of response from the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department regarding correspondence previously submitted by the JPA.
- Recent media coverage and public discussion related to Lake Hodges operations.

Public Comment – None

DISCUSSION/ACTION**1. FY24-25 Audit Report -****Recommendation:**

Receive and distribute the Third Party Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Garima Pathak of Harshwal & Company LLP presented the Fiscal Year 2024-25 audit report. Ms. Pathak reviewed the audit process, auditor responsibilities, internal controls, financial statements, GASB pronouncements, and audit findings.

Audit Highlights

- An unmodified (clean) audit opinion was issued.
- No material weaknesses were identified.
- No significant deficiencies were reported.
- No compliance findings were reported.
- Management provided all requested information without limitation and in a timely manner.
- The JPA's net position totaled approximately \$58.3 million.
- Current assets totaled approximately \$5.44 million compared to current liabilities of approximately \$156,224.
- Total revenues were approximately \$3.32 million and expenses approximately \$3.42 million.
- The decrease in revenue from the prior fiscal year was largely attributable to the one-time Cooper Property land donation recognized during FY 2023-24.
- Grants and contributions increased by approximately 29 percent.
- GASB 101 was implemented and GASB 103 will become applicable in FY 2026.

Board discussion included questions regarding valuation of donated property, cumulative grant funding acquired during the life of the JPA, and the agency's overall financial condition.

Public Comment – None

Board Member LaCava moved to receive and approve the audit report. Board Member Alternate Hayes seconded the motion.

All in favor.

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

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Gaasterland

Abstain: None

2. FY25-26 Q4 Budget Report and Coast Q2 Report -

Executive Director Bulay presented the reports.

FY 2025-26 Fourth Quarter Budget Report

- Revenue totaled \$1,963,442 and slightly exceeded projections.
- Expenditures totaled approximately \$1,954,075 and remained below budget.
- Revenues exceeded expenditures by approximately \$9,367.

Coast Fund Second Quarter Report

- Revenues totaled \$189,133, representing approximately 50 percent of annual projections.
- Expenditures represented approximately 49 percent of budgeted expenses.
- The operational endowment balance totaled approximately \$1.45 million.
- Unrestricted operating reserves totaled approximately \$509,147.

Discussion included fundraising activities and current policies related to donor support and project fundraising.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Member C. Martinez moved to receive and file the reports. Board Member Maeda seconded the motion.

All in favor.

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

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Gaasterland

Abstain: None

3. Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project -

Dwight Worden presented the Al Tarkington Memorial Osprey Project, a community-led effort honoring former Del Mar Mayor Al Tarkington and seeking to establish permanent osprey nesting habitat within the San Dieguito Lagoon area.

The proposed project would:

- Establish a permanent nesting structure near the W-19 restoration area east of Interstate 5.
- Provide a safe alternative to nesting on SDG&E utility poles.
- Enhance public education and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Potentially include educational signage, a viewing bench, and a live nest camera.
- Be fully funded by project proponents, including design, permitting, installation, and any future removal costs.

Board members expressed strong support for the project and discussed future opportunities for additional osprey nesting locations and educational outreach.

Public Comment – None

Action:

Board Member Martinez moved to approve the request and authorize staff to proceed with project evaluation and implementation. Chair MacDonald seconded the motion.

All in favor.

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

No votes: None

Absent: Lawson-Remer, Von Wilpert, Gaasterland

Abstain: None

4. Interpretive Programing -

Senior Interpretive Ranger Calei Heaslet presented an overview of current and future interpretive programming.

Highlights included:

- Addition of Interpretive Ranger Gaby Busalacchi to the education team.
- Launch of the monthly “Roaming with Rangers” public hike series.
- Reestablishment of the Interpretive Committee focused on updating park interpretive panels.
- Expansion of social media outreach and public engagement efforts.
- Continued support of Dust Devils, Trail Patrol, and Sikes Adobe volunteer programs.

- Partnerships with Ecologik, California Tracking Team, environmental educators, and community science organizations.
- Planning for future educational opportunities including a Junior Ranger Program and Park After Dark series.
- Progress on Sikes Adobe improvements, pavilion construction, and upcoming events.

Board members discussed opportunities to promote JPA programs through municipal newsletters, websites, and community outreach efforts.

Public Comment – None

INFORMATION

5. Project Status Updates

- a) **Osuna Segment of Coast to Crest Trail** – JPA Staff Nathan Lacy reported progress on habitat restoration and mitigation planning associated with the relocation of the bridge project. Coordination continues with environmental agencies and La Valle Coastal Club regarding off-site mitigation, and staff is preparing a Wildlife Conservation Board grant application to address project funding needs.
- b) **Reach the Beach Fairgrounds Trail** – Coordination continues with the City of Del Mar regarding environmental review, project implementation, grant funding, and the Hubbell Gateway component of the project.
- c) **San Dieguito Lagoon Phase II Restoration (aka W-19)** – No Report
- d) **CTC Trail – East San Pasqual and Sutherland Gaps Project** – Consultants continue evaluating trail alternatives and campground concepts. Staff is monitoring planning efforts associated with the San Pasqual Academy property to ensure trail planning considerations are addressed.
- e) **CTC Trail at Rio Run (Surf Cup)** – JPA Staff Nathan Lacy reported that work on the Rio Run Trail project will resume following the conclusion of nesting bird season in September. Restoration efforts will follow completion of trail construction activities.

5. Coordination Reports (oral)

- a. **San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy** – Executive Director Crystal Trull reported that the Conservancy has added two new interns, including an education outreach intern and a conservation intern. Planning efforts are underway for future habitat restoration projects, and the Conservancy is in the final stages of acquiring approximately 58 acres adjacent to its existing Del Dios conservation property. Trull announced that River Valley Fest, celebrating the Conservancy's 40th anniversary, will be held on October 11. She also reported that the Exploring Our Sense of Place (ESP) program has sold out once again and highlighted numerous upcoming volunteer events, educational programs, outdoor activities, and Coast to Crest Challenge hikes scheduled throughout the fall.
- b. **Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley** – No report

- c. **Volcan Mountain Foundation** – Vice Chair Khoury reported on the upcoming Volcan Mountain Nature Symposium, "Restoring Resilient Eco-Landscapes," scheduled for September 19-20, 2026, in Julian.
 - d. **San Dieguito Lagoon Committee** – Udo Wahn, M.D. reported that recent monitoring indicates the lagoon remains healthy. Water quality testing included pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and conductivity measurements at both the Grand Avenue Bridge and Jimmy Durante Boulevard monitoring locations.
6. **Jurisdictional Status Reports** –
Board Member Martinez reported installation of a new Escondido landmark sign along State Route 78.
Dustin Fuller reported that all real estate documents for the Double Track Bridge Project have been completed and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2027.
7. **Correspondence** – None
8. **Closed session with Legal Counsel:** No closed session was held and there were no reportable actions.
- Chair MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:29 PM and announced that the next regular meeting will be held on September 18, 2026 at the County Administration Building, Room 302/303.

These minutes were approved by Board action on October 16, 2026.



Leana Bulay, Executive Director