



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

**June 28, 2018  
2:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting called to order at 2:38 pm by Vice-Chair John Zarem

**Public Comments**

- None

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 11, 2017 MINUTES with minor edits – Ben Vallejos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joan Schneider ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1. CITY OF SAN DIEGO STORMWATER MITIGATION PROJECTS**

Jamie Kennedy from City of SD Stormwater Division discussed the Hollister Mitigation Project. Kennedy shared maps of the location, which is within the OVRP in CiSD open space. The project focuses on channel maintenance and replanting of wetland species. The City is applying for permits and anticipates permits to be issued mid-September. Final construction drafts will be completed in the next few months. Laura Ball can share contact info for Jamie Kennedy for questions or comments.

CAC Members brought up concerns with the private road leading up to the area. It was mentioned by members of the Otay-Nestor planning group that the road will be abandoned and will not be used for private business. Kennedy stated that the City has designed signs to discourage entry into the area in the meantime. Vice-Chair John Zarem requested that maps be sent out via email.

**2. OTAY REGIONAL TRAIL ALIGNMENT STUDY**

Melanie Tylke, Project Manager, presented an update on the Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study. The public workshop on June 20<sup>th</sup> went well, and Tylke gave an overview of what was presented at the workshop. Tylke reviewed the purpose of the study, the study area, processes to manage the different entities' planning areas and regulations, and key environmental considerations. The comment period will end July 6<sup>th</sup>, and comments can be made directly to Tylke. This is the first stage of implementation – next is acquiring the

funding, dependent on individual land owners of the trails. Tylke also presented maps of the trails under consideration in Otay Mesa, Eastlake, Jamul, and Otay Valley.

Committee Member Jose Galaz asked why trails are not being considered in the northern part of Otay Valley and why the existing single track trails are not contiguously proposed around Otay Lakes. Tylke acknowledged that the land surrounding Otay Lakes is owned by CiSD Public Utilities, whose primary mission is to provide drinking water and protect these source water resources. The CiSD Public Utilities Department views the existing trails as fisherman access, not multi-use trails.

Committee Member Mike McCoy asked if it is possible to negotiate around Village 13 and Village 14 developments in Otay Ranch. Villages 13 and 14 are anticipated developments through the Otay Ranch General Development Plan/Subregional Plan and must be presented to and voted on by the County's Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Tylke informed the CAC that they are always welcome to show up to County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and provide comment on these proposed developments. Dr. McCoy expressed how it seems counterintuitive to preserve open space when development also happens in nearby areas. Melanie will provide the planner's contact info to Dr. McCoy so he can provide comments directly. Vice-Chair Zarem asked if the CAC could receive maps and info of where to submit comments. Joanne Emerick will send out the weblinks to publicly available materials.

### 3. STATUS REPORTS

- a) Denney Canyon Trails Planning. Laura Ball stated that she and Mark Jennings met with the Trails Subcommittee. Ball presented a map with the remaining proposed trails that are moving forward to permit application. They had approached the HOA with proposed trail, but the HOA did not agree to provide an easement, so it has been removed from the trail plan. There are also certain sections not included for sensitive resource reasons. There is little to no incline on these trails.
- b) Otay River Restoration. Michael Walker reported that the restoration grading phase is almost done. Temporary fencing has been installed. 5-year plan for habitat restoration. There will be an update with photos at the next PC-CAC meeting. Walker will look into coordinating a fieldtrip for Trails Subcommittee, after the machines are off the property.
- c) City of Chula Vista PMP. Walker announced that the Commission approved the PMP as of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Adoption to City Council will be in July. The plan does include provisions for a bike skills park and other amenities.
- d) City of San Diego PMP. Ball encouraged everyone to visit the official website for up-to-date information. Committee Member Galaz attended the last workshop in San Ysidro, and he mentioned there were few in attendance. He encouraged all to submit comments and input to make sure the citizens have parks that they want.
- e) University Innovation District Project Timeline. Walker stated the project is going to the Planning Commission in the third week of July, then to City Council the following week. The project is on a 325-acre lot southwest of the Olympic Training Center. It will have a variety of educational aspects, such as advanced technology and university-level events. Located immediately adjacent to OVRP boundary.
- f) Grants. Tylke mentioned that there is always a number of opportunities for grants, and Joint Staff would like support from the CAC to look for grants and also help in writing grant proposals. Committee Member Ben Vallejos announced that they had applied for a Habitat Conservation Fund grant and were awarded \$100K over 4 years to bring families and students out to trails within Chula Vista, which includes areas in OVRP.

#### 4. FRIENDS OF OVRP

- The Friends bylaws were sent out to all for review. There is nothing in the bylaws that would dissipate Friends. George Hanson is the only remaining board member. There will be more review and better answers at the next PC-CAC meeting. For now, the Friends website is down but information is available at the County's website.
- Supervisor Cox asked at the last PC-CAC meeting if Friends had been filing the appropriate tax returns. It was confirmed that the Friends had not been taking in any money, so they were well below the threshold of submitting taxes.
- Committee Member Schneider inquired if non-action should be a factor. It was also asked if a new Friends group could just be created. Committee Member Vallejos mentioned that the new group would have to be filed as a new 501c3 under a new name.
  - ◆ Committee Member Robert Miller requested that the JEPa partners intervene. The CAC has not received money from Friends in 5 years. We must know what the options are – should Friends be discontinued in some way for us to move forward with something new? Tylke confirmed that County Counsel is looking into the situation, and a status update will be presented at the next PC-CAC meeting. Tylke asked if Schneider could bring back research for 501c3 organizations to better understand how to move forward. Schneider will also bring past Friends agendas and minutes for a better idea of what they did.
  - ◆ For now, donations can be made with the Parks Society account, accessible at [sdparks.org](http://sdparks.org). Donations made specific for OVRP will be allocated to OVRP only.
  - ◆ It will be asked at the next PC-CAC meeting whether a new Friends group is even wanted. A vote will be taken at that time.

#### Ranger Reports

##### Western OVRP Ranger Shimada

- Two facility improvements: 1) The 6-foot high gate at the Finney overlook has been replaced by an 8-foot high gate to discourage loitering. 2) New 10-year batteries were installed into all six solar-power lights at the Rios staging area.
- The Park Rangers Station windows were vandalized. The windows are currently boarded up and will be replaced soon. Shutters will be included because this is not the first time the windows have been vandalized.
- Offering 3 education programs to YMCA groups – once a month in June, July, and August.
- Audubon Society supporting OVRP by promoting awareness of the bird population. They wrote a short article in this month's *Sketches* publication.
- Volunteer groups are assisting with ponds in their own vicinity. A cleanup is scheduled for the Rios staging area, capping out at 50 registrants due to parking limitations.
- Committee Member Kim Peterson brought to attention that along Main Street, there is a huge break in the fence, giving free access into the park. Mika asked if the exact location or address could be sent to her so she could look into it.

##### Eastern OVRP Ranger Raduc

- Increased patrols at eastern OVRP, finally seeing decrease in off road vehicle use.
- Increase in educational outreach programs.
- Last Friday was first Summer Movie in the Park, featuring "The Lion King". There were more than 200 people in attendance.

- Summer is officially here, and most resources are concentrated on the weekends for special events.

**CAC Chair Comments**

No report.

**CAC Vice-Chair Comments**

Vice-Chair Zarem encouraged everyone to read all handouts and attachments ahead of time, prior to meetings, in the essence of saving time. CAC Meetings have limited time to discuss so much, reading handouts ahead of time will assist in having more efficient discussions.

**Subcommittee Reports**

A. Adjacent Development Review Subcommittee

- None

B. Trails Subcommittee Status Report

- None

C. Community Outreach and Youth Involvement Subcommittee

- Ranger Shimada shared that Discover OVRP Day was another success. It was good to host the event in another part of the park for more learning. Vice-Chair Zarem suggested taking a better look at the calendar next time to avoid other big events, such as the CV Fun Run which prevented Councilpersons from attending. Committee Member Peterson mentioned that the date was chosen for National Kids Get Outside Day. Schneider also commented that there was not enough signage to inform the public of the event.

D. Economic/Habitat Restoration Subcommittee

- None

**ADJOURNMENT** – 3:59 pm

**CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES**

John Zarem  
Joan Schneider  
Jose Galaz  
Darin Gray  
Mike McCoy

Vinit Jensen  
John Swanson  
Ben Vallejos  
Maria Mendoza  
Emma Reese

Robert Miller  
Kim Peterson  
Natalie Roberts-DeCarli  
John Swanson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Michael Walker  
Laura Ball  
Melanie Tylke  
Anne Jarque

Lauren Raduc  
Mark Jennings  
Joanne Emerick

Mika Shimada  
Josh Bugiel  
Jamie Kennedy

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Mark Kukuchek