



Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Time: Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: City of Chula Vista Civic Center, Building C, Training Rooms 111/112
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Call to Order: CAC Vice Chair

Vice Chair Susie Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Public Comments

Public member Robert commented on the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) public comment process. He noted that other public meetings he has attended have public comment slips for members of the public to sign. He also noted that the public does not have access to meeting materials ahead of the meeting. He suggested the agendas include more information so that the public has more context for agenda items.

Approval of Minutes: February 26, 2026 (*Action*)

Quorum was not met, so approval of the February 26, 2026 meeting minutes will be added to the August 20, 2026 meeting.

Agenda Items

1. Overview of Sweetwater Regional Park (*County of San Diego*)

Joint Staff member Paige Copenhaver provided an overview of Sweetwater Regional Park including its location in relation to Otay Valley Regional Park, park amenities, and a map of the park from the park's pamphlet. The presentation also included an overview of the Chula Vista Greenbelt Master Plan, which includes future implementation of an open space and trail system to surround the City of Chula Vista. The future Greenbelt trail will connect Otay Lakes County Park to Sweetwater Regional Park.

Joint Staff member Harold Phelps added that this plan has been in place for about 25 years, and the City of Chula Vista's goal is to complete the project in the next ten years.

Public member Robert asked if all trails will be accessible to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrian users. Joint Staff member Phelps said most trails will be accessible to all recreation types to the maximum extent possible.

If you would like any ADA assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact Harold Phelps at (619) 409-5472 or hphelps@chulavistaca.gov for arrangements.

Ranger Report

1. Western OVRP (*City of San Diego*)

Senior Park Ranger Mika Shimada-Cicirelli was not present at the meeting, so there was no Western OVRP Ranger Report.

2. Eastern OVRP (*County of San Diego*)

Park Ranger Aaron Escobedo provided an update on recent events in Otay Lakes County Park including an Easter event and a cleanup event through I Love A Clean San Diego, as well as an update on the number of campers using Otay Lakes facilities from March through May. Additionally, the Otay Lakes playground is still closed for maintenance. Otay Lakes will be hosting Movies in the Park events the last Saturday of every month from June through October.

Chair Comments

The CAC Chair was not present at the meeting.

Vice Chair Comments

Vice Chair Murphy noted concern about the underpass at the bridge at Beyer Way and lack of visibility for mountain bikers coming around the corner. She mentioned recently many people were blocking the trail and made it difficult to get by.

Special Topics as Needed and Open Discussion

CAC member Cristina Santa Maria said she brought the Caltrans bridge project to the San Diego Bird Alliance, and they were concerned about the lack of Ridgway's rail surveys. Joint Staff member Copenhaver has asked Caltrans to follow up on the project and bird surveys at a future CAC meeting.

Public member Robert encouraged the group to attend other public meetings.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m. The next CAC meeting is August 20, 2026.

CAC Member Attendees:

Susie Murphy
Ceasar Castro

Cristina Santa Maria

Hale Richardson

Staff:

Paige Copenhaver
Carey Goldstein

Harold Phelps
Mayra Medel

Aaron Escobedo

Public:

Robert

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