



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Notes**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – 2:07 pm by CAC Chair, John Zarem

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AND OCTOBER 15, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION to APPROVE CAC Member Ben McCue, 2<sup>nd</sup> CAC Member Susie Murphy  
ALL IN FAVOR – 14-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comments

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

- Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the CAC were postponed until the middle of a meeting when a quorum was present.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider nominated CAC Chair John Zarem for another term as the CAC Chair.
- CAC Member Mark Kukuchek nominated John Zarem to Chair and Joan Schneider to Vice-Chair. CAC Member Joan Schneider declined.
- Chair Zarem nominated CAC Member Susie Murphy for Vice-Chair.
- MOTION to Elect John Zarem as 2021 CAC Chair by Acclamation - Joan Schneider, 2<sup>nd</sup> CAC Member Jose Galaz

ALL IN FAVOR – 14-0-0

- MOTION to Elect Susie Murphy as 2021 CAC Vice-Chair - CAC Member Joan Schneider, 2<sup>nd</sup> CAC Member Galaz

ALL IN FAVOR – 14-0-0

**2. OVRP 101 (ALL)**

- Joint Staff gave an overview of OVRP and discussed the Joint Exercise of Power

Agreement (JEPA). Included in the overview were details on the JEPA structure, Policy Committee, Executive Management Team, and Joint Staff roles and responsibilities. Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) Concept Plan was also discussed along with State, County, City, and private ownership in the area.

- City of Chula Vista Staff Member Cheryl Goddard discussed the relationship between OVRP trails and the Chula Vista Greenbelt trails.
- City of San Diego Joint Staff Member Laura Ball discussed the following: general OVRP documents, trail guidelines, designs standards and guidelines, habitat restoration and exotic species removal plan, draft Western OVRP Natural Resources Management Plan, trails brochure for western OVRP, concept plan background and foundation, Segments 1 – 3 of the Concept Plan, and the OVRP trail map from San Diego Bay to I-805.
- Ms. Goddard discussed the following: Segment 4: Heritage Road to Otay Lakes, Segment 5: Otay Lakes vicinity, Otay Ranch residential villages, and the OVRP meeting calendar.

### 3. OVRP CHECK OUT NATURE VIDEO

- City of San Diego shared a video on Western OVRP. Due to technical difficulties the video was not shown completely and a link to the video on the City of San Diego site was provided: <https://www.sandiego.gov/parks-and-recreation/videos>

### 4. CAC SUBCOMMITTEE (CAC CHAIR)

- County of San Diego Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur asked that any members interested in joining the four subcommittees let her know what committee they are interested in. Ms. Kaur mentioned she would follow up with anyone that has not chosen a committee a week from today. CAC Members who shared their committee preference are listed below:

- Trails
  1. Jose Galaz (Chair)
  2. Rick Richardson
  3. Mark Kukuchek
  4. Susie Murphy
  5. Cesar Castro
  6. John Zarem
- COYIS
  1. Ben McCue
  2. Ben Vallejo

- Economic/Habitat Restoration
  - 1. Carrie Schroeder
  - 2. Cristina Santa Maria
  - 3. Joan Schneider
- Adjacent Development Review
  - 1. Lisa Cumper
  - 2. Joan Schneider

## 5. OTAY LAKES CAMPGROUND – CAMP BASHOR

- County of San Diego Staff Member Josh Bugiel gave a brief update on the Otay Lakes Campground, also called Camp Bashor. The Campground is very close to ribbon cutting and the team is awaiting signage for the entrances. Pictures were also shared to show the progress and work that has been done.

## 6. OVRP BIKE SKILLS PARK – GREG COX BIKE PARK

- County of San Diego Staff Member Nick Ferracane gave an update on the Greg Cox Bike Park. A ribbon cutting was held on April 28, 2021, and was well-attended by CAC members and the community. The County is currently working on finalizing project documentation and transferring over maintenance responsibilities to the City of Chula Vista.
- CAC Member Rick Richardson mentioned that this is the second bike park built in San Diego County and he's happy to see this in the South Bay. Mr. Richardson also complimented everyone involved in this project.
- CAC Member Jose Galaz thanked everyone involved in this project as well and shared his insights on how the park began.

## 7. HERITAGE STAGING AREA & I-805 TO HERITAGE TRAILS

- Ms. Kaur reported on the Heritage Staging Area and I-805 to Heritage trails. This trail is an approximately 3-mile loop. Design will start later this year and staff is excited to have the funding to get started.

## 8. EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Ms. Goddard gave an update on the emergency shelter. The City of Chula Vista will start construction in a few weeks. Construction will take approximately 60 days. The emergency shelter is about 2 acres. Ms. Goddard mentioned that the City of Chula Vista has earmarked approximately \$4.5 million that will cover the next three years. South Bay City Managers have met to discuss a partnership between the cities.

- CAC Member Rick Richardson inquired about the community garden that was supposed to be in the same area. Ms. Goddard responded that the County is working with the City of Chula Vista to identify a location for the community garden. Ms. Kaur added that the county came up with three locations for the emergency shelter and decided that this location was the preferred location for the shelter. However, due to the development of the emergency shelter at the same location, the County is currently revisiting the best location for the community garden.
- CAC Member John Schneider asked if there are going to be changes to the parking lot. Ms. Goddard added that the parking lot will not be affected by the emergency shelter.
- CAC Member Rick Richardson asked if there is an anticipated completion date for the emergency shelter. Ms. Goddard added that it would take approximately two months (60 days) once they begin construction and will begin this summer. Mr. Richardson also added that unless the security and safety is increased in the OVRP park, citizens will be reluctant to use the park.

## 9. SHINOHARA RESTORATION

- Ms. Goddard reported that this restoration site started off as a burn site. Soil remediation has been completed and habitat restoration has started with planting and seeding of the site. Photos were provided to the committee to show the progress of the Shinohara restoration.

## 10. GRANT UPDATES

- Ms. Ball reported that the Wildlife Conservation Board awarded the City of San Diego a grant to conduct a baseline hydraulic analysis and restoration site selection study in the OVRP. The City of San Diego plans to identify 10 sites for restoration projects.
- A grant was awarded to the County of San Diego for the East Otay Trail Alignment Study for \$450,000 to continue environmental analysis. As requested by a CAC member, Ms. Kaur will send the committee the grant description regarding the grant.
- CAC Member Rick Richardson mentioned new grant opportunity [Regional Park Program] due November 2021 and asked the committee if anyone will be applying for this grant. Ms. Kaur responded and mentioned that joint staff will look at which projects might be competitive for this opportunity.

## RANGER REPORT

- Ms. Ball spoke on behalf Sr. Ranger Mika Shimada to provide a report on Western OVRP. Ms. Ball reported out on the clean-up efforts of encampments within OVRP. At a recent event, clean-up crews removed over 2,000 pounds of trash and debris. Ms. Ball mentioned that the Mace Street bridge is washed out and short-term improvements are in place to allow access until a long-term bridge replacement can occur. Funding for replacement of the bridge has not been secured.
  - CAC Member Joan Schneider asked about the status of the butterfly garden. Ms. Ball responded that she was not familiar with this and would ask Sr. Ranger Mika and will report back on it.
  - CAC Member Lisa Cumper asked if the yurts are open. Mr. Bugiel responded that there are no yurts in OVRP, however, the yurts at the County's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park are now open for reservations.
- Ranger Lauren Raduc provided a report on Eastern OVRP which has been busy on the weekends. Ranger Raduc shared that there were 16 party reservations in May alone. The County is also welcoming back Movies at the Park. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be Hocus Pocus and pumpkin decorating at Otay Lakes County Park. Ranger Raduc mentioned that over 100 trees have been added to the Boy Scouts campground.

### **CAC CHAIR COMMENTS**

- CAC Chair, John Zarem commented on the increase of the unsheltered population in OVRP. He was hopeful that with the HOT team things get better. He also encouraged everyone to visit the OVRP park.

### **VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS**

- CAC Vice-Chair, Susie Murphy expressed her excitement regarding being part of the committee and appreciated the committee's support. Ms. Murphy expressed that Cisco WebEx is not user-friendly and would like to see the committee use a different platform to host these meetings in the future.
- CAC Chair Zarem asked Chula Vista if they had gone back to in-person meetings. Ms. Goddard responded that they are 50/50 in person meeting and virtual. Ms. Ball confirmed that the City of San Diego has not yet moved to in-person meetings. Ms. Kaur mentioned that Joint Staff would look into in-person meetings, or another virtual platform, for the next OVRP meeting.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider asked when the next PC-CAC meeting will take place. Ms.

Kaur responded that the next PC-CAC meeting will be on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m.

### **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Adjacent Development Review Subcommittee – None
2. Trails Subcommittee – None
3. COYIS – None
4. Economic/Habitat Restoration Subcommittee -None

### **ADJOURNMENT** – 3:59PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN – CAC Member Joan Schneider, 2<sup>nd</sup> CAC Member Zarem  
ALL IN FAVOR – 14-0-0

NEXT MEETING IS July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 2 p.m.

### **CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES**

John Zarem	Carlos Sanchez	Gabriel Innocenzi
Susie Murphy	Jose Galaz	Ben Vallejos
Ben McCue	Mark Kukuchek	Cesar Castro
Rick Richardson	Carrie Schneider	Joan Schneider
Lisa Cumper	Cristina Santa Maria	

### **STAFF ATTENDEES**

Kiran Kaur	Blanca Castillo
Lauren Raduc	Nick Ferracone
Josh Bugiel	Cheryl Goddard
David Suls	
Robert Williams	

### **PUBLIC MEMBER ATTENDEES**

Karin Robertson