



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
2:00pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – 2:08 pm by CAC Chair, John Zarem

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, MINUTES**

MOTION to APPROVE AS AMENDED - Committee Member Rick Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee Member Joan Schneider  
ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comment

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. ELECTION OF CAC CHAIR AND CAC VICE CHAIR

- CAC Member Joan Schneider nominated John Zarem

MOTION TO APPROVE - Committee Member Joan Schneider, 2nd Committee Member Rick Richardson

ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

- CAC Chair John Zarem nominated Susie Murphy

MOTION TO APPROVE - CAC Chair John Zarem, 2nd Committee Member Jose Galaz

ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

2. PROPOSED I-805 BICYCLE PATH FROM PALM AVENUE TO MAIN STREET (CALTRANS)

- Ramon Martinez from Caltrans gave a presentation on the proposed I-805 bike path from Palm Avenue to Main Street. Mr. Martinez highlighted a brief history, goals, purpose, and need for the project. The construction cost for the trail is expected to be \$10 million. Caltrans is currently in the environmental analysis phase. The design is expected to begin in 2022 and the project is expected to be completed in 2025. Two project alternatives were

shared including a bicycle bridge on the east side of the I-805 and a hanging bicycle bridge under the eastern I-805 bridge.

- CAC Chair John Zarem asked what the cost difference is between the two variations. Mr. Martinez responded that the two alternatives are similar, but the hanging bridge would be more complicated to construct and require more maintenance.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider asked if the path would be opened for pedestrians and low enough for users to have views of the OVRP. Mr. Martinez confirmed it would.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy expressed that she likes the path and requested that it be called a bike pathway instead of a bike trail. There was some discussion on the bike path's connections to existing streets and trails.
- CAC Member Jose Galaz asked if the west side of the freeway would be closed to bikes following construction of the new proposed bridge on the east side of the freeway. Mr. Martinez confirmed it would. Bike users would need to go under the underpass and use the new pathway.
- City of San Diego Staff Member Mika Shimada asked if there will be access to exit both east and west at each end of the hanging bridge. An access point is needed to connect to Palm Avenue so residents can access the bike path and also go east and west within OVRP.
- City of San Diego Joint Staff Laura Ball expressed that that the CAC or Caltrans Subcommittee should formally address their concerns to Caltrans in a letter. Ms. Ball is the point of contact to work with Caltrans.
- Mr. Martinez added that there will be a public hearing scheduled later this year and asked the CAC to provide feedback regarding the type of access that is needed (truck, pedestrian, bike, etc.).
- CAC Member Rick Richardson made a motion for the Trails Committee to evaluate the bike path and propose potential connections and design requests. The proposal should come back to the CAC in letter form as a recommendation to Caltrans. Committee Member Rick Richardson, 2nd CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy

ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

### 3. OTAY RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE (CITY OF CHULA VISTA)

- Courtney Casey from SWCA, on behalf of the City of Chula Vista, gave a presentation on the Otay River Restoration. Ms. Casey highlighted the Otay River Mitigation Project. Ms. Casey added that 32 acres of pre-bank have been restored to date. Casey mentioned the

proposed project includes additional restoration to expand the mitigation site. She shared the multiple sites uses and objectives with the committee. The presentation also highlighted sensitive species and sensitive plants within the project site.

- CAC Member Jose Galaz asked if the boulders currently on the site were removed. Ms. Casey responded that some boulders have been removed and the goal is to place them somewhere on site.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy asked if these trails are all for hiking only or multi-use. Ms. Casey responded that secondary trails would be open to hikers, bikes, and equestrians. The multi-use trails would be open to these groups as well as vehicles.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy asked about access to the utility road running north-south across the site. Ms. Casey responded that there would be no formal trail in the SDG&E Utility Corridor as part of this project.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy requested a site visit.
- CAC Chair John Zarem asked what the project timeline is. Ms. Casey responded that SWCA would like to get the environmental analysis finalized by the end of spring and break ground in the fall/early winter.
- CAC Member Rick Richardson expressed support for the project and requested the Trail Committee consider drafting a letter to SDG&E to express the importance of the north-south trail connection across the site.

#### 4. EMERGENCY SHELTER (CITY OF CHULA VISTA)

- Angelica Davis and Sergeant Ernesto Pinedo from the City of Chula Vista gave an update on the status of the City of Chula Vista's Emergency Shelter project. Ms. Davis shared that the shelters have been ordered and an operator has been selected. The shelter is aiming to be open by June.
- CAC Chair John Zarem mentioned that there has been a lot of activity on Main Street and asked if this was part of the project. Sergeant Ernesto Pinedo responded that this is part of their outreach and clean-up. They have been working on cleaning up the tires in this area. Urban Corps and I Love a Clean San Diego removed two truckloads of tires as part of a coordinated cleanup. The City of Chula Vista has also added k-rail barriers to minimize illegal dumping. On May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the City of San Diego and City of Chula Vista will coordinate to clean up remaining encampments.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider mentioned that the Union Tribune had an article on the shelters. Ms. Schneider asked if there will be landscaping or electricity for temperature

control. Ms. Davis responded that the units are climate controlled and each unit will have heater and air conditioning. Ms. Davis also added that the City of Chula Vista was gifted 50 trees that will be planted at the project site.

5. NATIVE PLANT PROCLAMATION (CAC MEMBER SANTA-MARIA)

- This item was presented together with Item 6 – Resolution of Support for Latino Conservation Week.

6. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK (CAC MEMBER SANTA-MARIA)

- Andrew Meyer, Director of the San Diego Audubon Society, provided some background of the native plant proclamation and resolution of support for Latino conservation week. Mr. Meyer brought and shared some plant seeds from the California Native Society.
- CAC Member Cristina Santa-Maria requested the CAC adopt the two proclamations: Annual Native Plants at Otay Valley Regional Park, coinciding with Earth Day, and Latino Conservation Week at Otay Valley Regional Park annually on the Third week of July. Copies of the two proclamations were provided to the committee.
- CAC Chair John Zarem shared that these two proclamations were adopted by Chula Vista Mayor, Mary Salas.
- CAC Chair John Zarem asked who should sign the proclamations. The CAC agreed that CAC Chair Zarem would sign the documents.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy motioned to approve and adopt the two proclamations. CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy, 2nd Committee Member Cristina Santa-Maria  
ALL IN FAVOR – 11-0-0

7. GRANTS UPDATE (ALL)

- City of San Diego Joint Staff Member Laura Ball gave a brief update on the City of San Diego's Hydrology Study. The City of San Diego team is working through requests for proposals for a consulting firm to provide technical assistance for the project.
- City of Chula Vista Joint Staff Member Harold Phelps reported that the City of Chula Vista submitted a grant application for a trails master plan through SANDAG and is hoping to hear back in April.
- County of San Diego Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur reported on the East Otay Trail Alignment Study Project Program EIR, which received a grant last year. Ms. Kaur noted

that there will be a scooping meeting for this project in the next few months and a notification about the meeting will be sent out to CAC members.

## **RANGER REPORT**

### 1. Western OVRP, Ranger Mika Shimada

- Ranger Mika Shimada reported on an upcoming event that will take place on Saturday at 9a.m. with the San Diego Coastkeeper to pick up trash. Ms. Shimada also added that Coastal Cleanup Day is on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and OVRP is working with I Love a Clean San Diego.

### 2. Eastern OVRP, Ranger Lauren Raduc.

- County of San Diego Joint Staff Member Lauren Raduc gave a brief update on the Otay Lakes Boulderling project that was complete recently and confirmed the feature has been successful thus far and is getting significant use by parkgoers. Ms. Raduc shared that the annual Breakfast with the Bunny event will be held at Otay Lakes County Park on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30a.m. and will include crafts and games for the kids.

## **CAC CHAIR COMMENTS**

- CAC Chair John Zarem shared that the committee has two vacancies for each jurisdiction – County of San Diego, City of Chula Vista and City of San Diego. Mr. Zarem shared that he drove around trails and did not see many homeless and added that the bike park looks great. Additionally, Mr. Zarem requested information on OVRP Day. County of San Diego Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur stated that the OVRP had decided on doing a few smaller events throughout the year instead of one larger event.

## **VICE CHAIR COMMENTS**

- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy had no additional comments.

## **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Adjacent Development Review Subcommittee – None
2. Trails Subcommittee – CAC Member Jose Galaz expressed his gratitude for all the hard work being done on the trails project and all of the work that has been in progress for years. Mr. Galaz

also shared an event coming up May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ranger Bike ride in Otay Valley. It will be a family-friendly bike ride for all skill levels.

3. COYIS – CAC Chair John Zarem noted that Ben McCue resigned, so this subcommittee needs a chair.
4. Economic/Habitat Restoration Subcommittee – None

Before the meeting was adjourned, the County of San Diego introduced the new South Bay Region Manager, Charles Gailband.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 3:50PM

The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:00p.m.

**CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES**

John Zarem	Hale Richardson	Rick Richardson
Ben Vallejos	Emma Reese	Jose Galaz
Cristina Santa Maria	Susie Murphy	Joan Schneider

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kiran Kaur	Blanca Castillo	Laura Ball
Lauren Raduc	Emily Pacholski	Sgt. Ernesto Pinedo
Mika Shimada	Charles Gailband	Amy Hoffman
Angelica Davis	Harold Phelps	

**PUBLIC MEMBER ATTENDEES**

Andrew Meyer  
Ramon Martinez