



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
JOINT POLICY-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2019  
2:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order at 2:07 pm by Policy Member Cox.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS

- Policy Member Cox introduced the newest member of the Policy Committee: City of San Diego Councilwoman Vivian Moreno

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2018

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 8, 2018 MINUTES – Policy Member Diaz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Member Cox  
ALL IN FAVOR – 2-0-1

3. CAC VACANCIES

- Vacancies (County of San Diego-2, City of San Diego-1, City of Chula Vista-0)
  - ◆ County of San Diego nominates Susie Murphy.  
MOTION TO APPROVE – Policy Member Cox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Member Moreno  
ALL IN FAVOR – 3-0-0
  - ◆ County of San Diego nominates Mark Kukuchek.  
MOTION TO APPROVE – Policy Member Cox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Member Diaz  
ALL IN FAVOR – 3-0-0
  - ◆ City of San Diego has no nominations today.

4. OTAY RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT: SATURN BLVD. BIKE PATH  
TEMPRARY RE-ROUTE – USFWS

Andy Yuen of USFWS San Diego Wildlife Refuge provided an update on the project and how it impacts the existing OVRP Trails. 125 acres of habitat will be created as part of the habitat restoration project, involving the Otay River flood plain. The project will move about 325,000 cubic yards from the flood plain, then transfer it to Pond 15 to raise and support the salt marsh habitat. Long-term restoration will look similar to Ponds 10 & 11 regarding habitat restoration. In moving the material, there will be a crossing at Main Street which must temporarily reroute a portion of the Saturn Blvd bike path. The path will be temporarily

rerouted to an existing OVRP trail adjacent to Refuge. The project is expected to take up to two years, with a temporary delay for nesting season. All things going well, the project will begin September 2019.

Policy Member Moreno asked if tours will be provided for the public. Yuen answered the San Diego Audubon Society provides bird watching tours on the salt works during non-nesting season.

5. OVRP BIKE SKILLS PARK UPDATE – County of San Diego/City of Chula Vista

County Staff Member Chelsea Jander provided an update on the OVRP Bike Skills Park. The project location is adjacent to the Rio Staging Area west of I-805. The County worked with City of Chula Vista to select 3.2 acres in the eastern portion of Rec Area 6 for the proposed project. The County is currently in process to select a designer and will work with City of Chula Vista to complete environmental studies and all necessary documents for CEQA. The first public meeting will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and a follow-up workshop will be provided at the annual OVRP Day on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Saturn Staging Area.

Policy Member Cox asked the City of Chula Vista if they have plans for the western portion. Chula Vista Staff Member Kelly Broughton said Chula Vista does have ideas in its Park Master Plan to plan the west side of the Bike Park.

Policy Member Cox also mentioned there are inquiries on whether a community garden could be included near the Bike Park. Cox would like staff to look at the Marquez property in the MSCP area to analyze if it can ultimately be part of the OVRP and a place for a community garden. County Staff Member Brian Albright said the County will take the lead on this analysis and work with the City of Chula Vista to determine.

6. OTAY LAKES SEWER IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE – County of San Diego

County Staff Member Melanie Tylke reported that the County is upgrading facilities at Otay Lakes County Park in eastern OVRP from septic to sewer. The County entered into a Sewage Agreement with the City of Chula Vista and environmental studies are now underway. The sewer lines will be built/co-located underneath proposed trails to minimize impact to the environment. The project is estimated to be completed by December 2020.

Policy Member Moreno was under the impression that sewer lines could not be in canyon lands based on SD Water Authority. County Staff Members are unaware of these restrictions in the Otay Ranch Preserve. City of San Diego staff Jeannette DeAngelis stated this may be for San Diego Canyonlands and Public Utilities Department may be working on a long-range plan for updating City facilities, but would confirm.

7. EAST OTAY REGIONAL TRAIL ALIGNMENT STUDY PRESENTATION – County of San Diego

County Staff Member Tylke presented an update on the study. The Participant Committee has approved all proposed alignments, as presented at the second public workshop and the trail planning document is being prepared. General biological and cultural surveys will be conducted this season; when that is complete, the trail planning document can be finalized.

Policy Member Cox asked if the EMT has signed off on this. County Staff Member Albright confirmed. The County will work on establishing an MOU or written agreement that documents the tremendous amount of work that has been done. It is a good opportunity to document the work until the programmatic EIR. Policy Member Cox inquired as to the total number of trails. County Staff Member Albright confirmed there are 151 miles of trails proposed as part of the trail study.

Policy Member Cox commented on how amazing it is to have so many public agencies working together on this effort. County Staff Member Albright said there is no formal commitment yet – the programmatic EIR and high-level environmental analysis still need to be done. As each individual alignment moves forward, there will be subsequent studies involved.

## 8. RANGER REPORTS

- Mika Shimada, City of San Diego, Western OVRP
  - Ranger Program hosted three Adventure Passport programs between November and January.
    - November: Kumeyaay Connection. The Jamul Tribe presented on materials found in park, such as clay pottery, bows and arrows.
    - December: Stargazing. The San Diego Astronomy Association brought telescopes for attendees to look at the stars at Otay Lakes. Participants also got to paint rocks with glow-in-the-dark paint and made smores.
    - January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arbor Day and OVRP's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with Chula Vista High Tech High students and their families planting 20 five-gal Sycamore and Cottonwood trees at Hollister Pond.
  - Natural Resource Management: Work crew removed 800 cubic yards of arundo and trash/debris along the northern trail between Beyer Way and Beyer Blvd. between October 2018 and January 2019.
  - City of San Diego facility division has made many repairs at Ranger Station and Mace Staging Area bathroom, five old portable toilets were removed by Ocean Blue Environment Services and three new toilets were replaced by United Site Services. There is also a new sign installed at the Ranger Station.
  - SD Bird Festival will be held February 27-March 3. The OVRP was invited to host their own tour of all birds in the OVRP.
  - Milkweed planting for the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary will take place this Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Rio Staging Area.
- Josh Bugiel for Lauren Raduc, County of San Diego, Eastern OVRP
  - OVRP's Holidays at the Lake was a first of hopefully an annual event, which took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the OVRP. Participants enjoyed breakfast, games, face painting, and visits with Santa Claus. The event was sponsored in part by the Parks Society.
  - The County's East County Operations team finished improvements to eastern valley access road. Natural materials were used to create water bars to prevent erosion.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Breakfast with the Bunny will be held at Otay Lakes on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Participants can partake in breakfast, crafts, visits with the bunny, and an egg hunt.

- On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, I Love A Clean SD will host a cleanup at the OVRP, near Otay Lakes and the boat launch.
- County Staff Member Albright also provided an update, stating that the County will introduce new components to its park system. An underutilized area will be re-developed into a bouldering area. Artificial boulders will be installed with elements for all ages. This project is in partnership with the San Diego Mountain Climbing Community. The Board will consider this project next Wednesday. It is estimated to cost \$250k.

## 9. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

CAC Vice-Chairman John Zarem reported that the CAC last met on December 6, 2018 as a special meeting where CAC members received updates on new the Otay Ranch developments proposed in the County's jurisdiction. The Chair and Vice-Chair are working on assigning members to sub-committees. Vice-Chairman Zarem also wanted to note a change to the meeting calendar – the next CAC meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

- Policy Member Moreno is interested in seeing where the OVRP geographically is situated in relation to land from the I-805 to Otay Lakes Road (general region of property). She would also like to see future park development plans as related to the OVRP Concept Plan. Supervisor Cox commented that most of the land east of Heritage Road is owned by Otay Ranch.
- Policy Member Moreno asked about the POM. POM stands for Preserve Owner Manager, which is a JEPA between the County and the City.

## 11. REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Update on development of Otay Ranch and properties accepted
- Update on status of OVRP project progress from I-805 to Otay Lakes
- Next PC-CAC meeting is on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

ADJOURNMENT – 3:00 pm

### OVRP PC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Supervisor Cox

Councilman Diaz

Councilwoman Moreno

### CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Carrie Schneider

Robert Miller

Natalie Roberts-DeCarli

John Zarem

Vinit Jensen

Michael McCoy

Kim Peterson

Omar Sanchez

Emma Reese

Ben Vallejos

Jose Galaz

Alfredo Perez

John Vogel

John Swanson

### STAFF PRESENT

Brian Albright

Melanie Tylke

Kelly Broughton

Mika Shimada

Michael Walker

Joanne Emerick

Laura Ball

Jeannette DeAngelis

Cheryl Goddard

Victor Avina

Chelsea Jander

Josh Bugiel

### PUBLIC ATTENDEES

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Mark Kukuchek

Susie Murphy