



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)
JOINT POLICY-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 30, 2019
2:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order at 2:13 pm by Policy Member Cox.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2019
MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 21, 2019 MINUTES – Policy Member Moreno, 2nd
Policy Member Diaz
ALL IN FAVOR – 3-0-0

2. CAC VACANCIES
 - Vacancies (County of San Diego-0, City of San Diego-1, City of Chula Vista-0)
 - ◆ City of San Diego nominates Lisa Cumper.
MOTION TO APPROVE – Policy Member Moreno, 2nd Policy Member Diaz
ALL IN FAVOR – 3-0-0
 - Policy Member Moreno acknowledged Kim Peterson, who has resigned after being a CAC member since 2007. Ms. Peterson is appreciated for all the support and service she has provided over the years.
 - Policy Member Cox acknowledged County Staff Member Melanie Tylke, an OVRP Joint Staff representative of the County for four years. Ms. Tylke is greatly appreciated and will be missed as she transfers to another County department. The Policy Committee presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

3. 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. Ms. Jander gave an overview of what bike parks are, the elements typically found in bike parks, and where the proposed 3.2-acre OVRP Bike Skills Park would be located.

Ms. Jander shared the Concept Plan for the proposed OVRP Bike Skills Park, showing east and west entrances to activate both sides of the existing trail and providing a summary of the different zones included in the park, including a Kids' Zone, Jump Park Zone, Pump Track Zone, and Skills Loop Trail.

CAC Member Joan Schneider asked who covers insurance for the park. County Staff Member Renee Hilton commented that the park will be managed by the City of Chula Vista.

Policy Member Moreno congratulated the County and the City of Chula Vista on their work to add a great amenity to OVRP.

Policy Member Cox inquired about an estimated timeline on construction. Ms. Jander commented that after the Concept Plan is approved, then the County will work on construction documents hopefully by the end of 2019. Shortly after construction documents are complete, the project can go to bid and procurement, and then construction.

4. COMMUNITY GARDEN FEASIBILITY UPDATE – City of Chula Vista/County of San Diego

Policy Member Cox prefaced this agenda item by stating how successful the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Community Garden has been, and another community garden in Sweetwater is anticipated for completion in June 2019. Signups are going well for the Sweetwater Community Garden, and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It will be great for the community to have a community garden added to the OVRP.

County Staff Member Melanie Tylke presented the County's findings on a feasibility assessment for a potential community garden on an area known as the Marquez Property. It is staff's recommendation to not move forward with development of a garden on this site due to public access constraints. There is no immediate access to a public road, and the area is landlocked and located behind an industrial zone. The property also lies within the City of San Diego's Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA), meaning there are development restrictions due to the likely presence of sensitive habitat and protected species. Staff will continue to look at other areas within the OVRP for a community garden.

Policy Member Cox mentioned that \$100k has been set aside for development of a community garden in OVRP once a location has been determined.

5. I-805 TO OTAY LAKES AREA UPDATE

City of Chula Vista Staff Member Michael Walker requested to switch agenda items 5 and 6, discussing the I-805 to Otay Lakes Area update first. Mr. Walker shared a map of the proposed trail system between the I-805 and Heritage Road and discussed the proposed trail system segment by segment.

In Segment 1, west of I-805, a Caltrans Agreement was established to connect to existing trails. Segment 2, east of I-805, allows for a north and south trail connection. The City of Chula Vista is looking to develop a potential staging area in the vicinity of an existing parking lot for a commercial area. Also in Segment 2, the Shinohara Remediation was recently completed to allow future development of trails. In Segments 3 & 4, easements have been obtained to connect to a future park in Recreation Area 8. In Segment 5, Dennery Park may require puncheon bridges east of the park. In Segment 6 several alternative options are being explored (6A, 6B, and 6C), as there are some access issues in this segment. In Segments 7 & 8, Aquatica/Amphitheater easements have been obtained. In Segment 9, the Main Street project will include a bike path and 6-to-10-foot pathway for pedestrians and equestrians. In Segments 10 & 10B, all but one easement has been obtained. If staff is not able to secure an easement for the last property, an alternative route will be determined on Chula Vista property.

Next steps for the trails from I-805 to Heritage Road include completing a project description and initiating environmental analysis. Environmental analysis is anticipated to begin by the end of 2019.

From Heritage Road to Otay Lakes there is a draft conceptual map of the trail system from the OVRP Concept Plan. Once staff has made progress on the I-805 to Heritage Road segment of trails, additional analysis will be completed to prepare a more detailed proposed trail system from Heritage Road to Otay Lakes.

6. OTAY RANCH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

City of Chula Vista Staff Michael Walker also provided an update on the Otay Ranch developments within Chula Vista. Village 3 is over 50% occupied. The commercial use and elementary school are currently under construction. The regional trail will connect from the development to OVRP at Main Street. Phase 1 grading is nearly complete, and Phase 2 grading has begun. Village 8 includes the community park in Rec Area 11, and grading will commence in 2-3 years.

Policy Member Moreno requested hard copies of the presentation to better visualize the maps and understand deadlines. Policy Member Diaz asked what type of commercial use will occur in Rec Area 10. City of Chula Vista Staff Michael Walker said limited commercial use has been defined for this area, but specific uses are not yet determined.

CAC Member Michael McCoy inquired about fire vulnerability concerns. City of Chula Vista Staff Member Kelly Broughton answered that all villages have gone through the full development process, which includes a fire plan with defined protection areas.

CAC Member Jose Galaz asked if primitive trails have been considered for the segment from Main Street to the Otay River Restoration area. County Staff Member Tylke answered that as part of the East Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study, staff is looking at opportunities for primitive trails.

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

County Staff Member Tylke reported that the study is in the process of being finalized. The general biological and cultural surveys are currently underway for all trail segments, which include primitive trails in OVRP. The final trail study document is anticipated to be completed in 2019.

CAC Member Lisa Cumper asked if a Native American monitor was part of the cultural study. Tylke confirmed that there has been Native American monitoring as part of the analysis, and additional consultation will occur as part of the environmental analysis. CAC Member Cumper asked who the archeologist is for the cultural study. Tylke answered that the consultant is Recon Environmental.

Policy Member Cox commented that resource agencies have been full partners on this effort. A huge area was covered, and all parties have agreed to the preliminary alignments. The study covers 151 miles of trails. The challenge now is to look for funding to complete the environmental analysis.

CAC Members Galaz and Murphy requested that the study consider alternative trails on the western side of OVRP. They have spoken with the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department regarding the redundant trails leading to Otay Lakes Reservoir. They want to make sure this well-loved area is the best it can be.

Policy Member Cox gave an update on the County's work with the Boy Scouts for the proposed campground in Otay Lakes Regional Park. The Boy Scouts' plan includes up to 100 tent campsites and a plaza for jamborees of 400 campers. The Boy Scouts will take the lead on designing and constructing the campground. The intent is to make the site available to other community groups as well, such as the Bonita Valley Horsemen, Girl Scouts, and Boys and Girls Clubs. Their goal is to raise \$2M for the proposed project, which includes an archery zone, zip line, and restrooms. To date, they have secured a \$1M naming opportunity for the campground. The plan is to charge a nominal fee for maintenance. The design needs \$200k for the zip line, and \$25k for the plaza. Hopefully the money is raised by the end of this summer, and construction can begin shortly thereafter.

County Staff Member Tylke also wanted to answer Policy Member Moreno's question from the last meeting regarding the proposed sewer line connection to Otay Lakes Regional Park and if those lines would be allowed within canyons. The answer is yes, because the proposed sewer lines within the canyons are currently proposed within the Otay Ranch Preserve lands, and utilities such as sewer lines are an allowed use within the Otay Ranch Preserve. City of San Diego Staff Member Jeannette DeAngelis also noted they found nothing that precludes the City of San Diego from allowing sewer lines in canyon lands. There is a redirection of flow study done annually to find areas where sewer lines can be taken out of canyons and put in developed or urban areas, but nothing specifically that precludes installing or fixing existing sewer lines. Policy Member Moreno clarified that her question was more for new sewer lines as opposed to existing sewer lines. DeAngelis answered that this question may be better suited for the Public Utilities Department.

8. RANGER REPORTS

- Ranger Wesley Giubialto for Mike Shimada, City of San Diego, Western OVRP
 - Adventure Passport events took place each month Feb-May 2019, ending with the ninth annual OVRP Day as the finale. In February, they hosted a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary event. In March, they hosted Nature Sketching and Painting. In April, they hosted Earth Day Kayaking with Creek-to-Bay Cleanup. And May 18th was the Discover OVRP Day, also known as National Day of Outdoor Play.
 - The San Diego Bird Festival was also held at OVRP on February 27-March 3 by the Audubon Society.
 - A partnership with San Diego Canyonlands for nature walks led to the first nature walk on March 23rd.
 - The 1st OVRP Junior Ranger Guided Walk was held on April 14th.
 - An OVRP Nest Box Project was held on April 28th.
 - The OVRP Junior Ranger Program held 2 events for students to complete the program and receive certificates in May.
 - Policy Member Moreno asked how she might receive more information on events that she can highlight in her newsletter. Ranger Wesley said he and Ranger Mika can send her their calendar of events.
- Lauren Raduc, County of San Diego, Eastern OVRP
 - On any given weekend, the County accommodates up to 250 park visitors in its reservable areas, and it is expected to be at high occupancy throughout Spring and Summer.
 - April 6th was the 2nd annual Breakfast with a Bunny. More than 300 attendees participated. There were 200 grab bags given to egg hunters, which disappeared quickly. Many volunteers and sponsors made this event successful.
 - This was the 2nd year to join rangers for the Creek-to-Bay Cleanup on April 27th.

- Outreach programs continue, such as the Sunday Hikes with a Ranger.
- Summer Movies in the Park will commence on Father's Day weekend. The first movie will be "The Sandlot." They will also show "Lego Movie 2" on August 16th, and "Beetlejuice" in October.

9. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

CAC Vice-Chairman John Zarem reported that CAC met on April 18th. They spent a lot of time planning for OVRP Day and assigned members to subcommittees. Jose Galaz will be the head of the Trails Subcommittee. Kim Peterson moved to North Dakota. And Vice-Chairman Zarem acknowledged the work that CAC Members Galaz and Kukuchek and the San Diego Mountain Biking Association have done on the Rock House Trail at Mount Miguel Park in Chula Vista – he hiked it and noticed the significant work that had been done there.

10. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS

- Policy Member Moreno commented on the importance of milkweed planting for monarch butterflies and would like to plan more planting events to support this important ecosystem.
- Policy Member Cox mentioned the next PC-CAC meeting will be rescheduled to a Monday, September 30th. This meeting will consolidate the August and October meetings so it should be the only remaining meeting this year. The committee will have a lot of opportunities to get together for ribbon cuttings and other events throughout the year.
- Policy Member Cox commented that the County will vote on its final budget in the last week of June 2019. The current budget proposes \$400k for an acquisition of land for the OVRP Heritage Staging Area.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider reminded CAC members of the next CAC meeting on July 18th.

11. REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Policy Member Cox requested a report back on the Heritage Staging Area acquisition.
- Policy Member Cox requested an update on the Boy Scouts campground and sewer line connection project.
- Policy Member Moreno requested to go over which parcels in Western OVRP (805 to the Bay) are still privately owned.
- Policy Member Moreno also requested an update on potential State grant funding.
- Next PC-CAC meeting is on September 30th, 2019

ADJOURNMENT – 3:29 pm

OVRP PC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Supervisor Cox

Councilman Diaz

Councilwoman Moreno

CAC MEMBER ATTENDEES

Joan Schneider

Robert Miller

Natalie Roberts-DeCarli

John Zarem

Michael McCoy

Lisa Cumper

Kim Peterson

Emma Reese

Alfredo Perez

Ben Vallejos

Jose Galaz

Mark Kukuchek

Ben McCue

John Swanson

Susie Murphy

STAFF PRESENT

Renee Hilton

Wesley Giubialto

Laura Ball

Victor Avina

Lauren Raduc

Melanie Tylke

Michael Walker

Jeannette DeAngelis

Chelsea Jander

Crystal Benham

Kelly Broughton

Joanne Emerick

Cheryl Goddard

Josh Bugiel