



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)
JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (PC-CAC) MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 2:02 pm by Councilmember Cardenas

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Cardenas, Councilmember Moreno, with Supervisor Vargas arriving after agenda item #2

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approval of Minutes from June 17th, 2021, PC-CAC meeting
Motion to approve by Policy Member Moreno, 2nd by Policy Member Cardenas
ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0, with Supervisor Vargas absent
2. CAC Vacancies (County of San Diego -2, City of San Diego -2, City of Chula Vista -2)
 - Policy Member Moreno brought forward to nominate Ms. Delanie Medina for the City of San Diego:
Motion to appoint by Policy Member Moreno, 2nd Policy Member Cardenas
ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0, with Supervisor Vargas absent
3. Project Updates
 - a) Emergency Shelter – City of Chula Vista
 - City of Chula Vista Staff Member Jose Luis Gomez gave a brief update on the South Bay Emergency Shelter. Mr. Gomez informed the group that the emergency shelter was at 50% construction and was planned to open in spring 2023. The emergency shelter would be operated by a third-party operator and include showers and a laundry facility.
 - Policy Member Moreno asked how many units the Emergency Shelter will have. Jose Luis Gomez responded 64 units that fit up to two people each, for a total of 128 spaces.
 - CAC Member Joan Schneider asked if the units are intended for related people or non-related. Jose Luis Gomez responded that shared units would only be for people entering the shelter together.

b) Heritage Bridge – City of Chula Vista

- City of Chula Vista Staff Member Jose Luis Gomez gave a presentation on the Heritage Bridge replacement project. Highlights included visual simulations from various viewpoints, a description of the bridge improvements, and the purpose and need for the project. The replacement bridge would consist of six lanes with pedestrian sidewalks, bike lanes, turn lanes, and outlooks.
- CAC Member Jose Galaz shared concerns on trail funding. Director Brian Albright said that there is funding for the planning and the trail design for the 805 to Heritage trails in OVRP.
- CAC Member Joan Schneider asked how many feet of vertical clearance was planned from the ground to the bridge, citing concerns for the continued ability for animals to cross under the bridge. Jose Luis Gomez responded that the vertical clearance would range from 15 to 25 feet in height, which would allow animals to continue movement under the bridge.

c) East Otay Trail Alignment Study – County of San Diego

- County Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur gave an update on the East Otay Trail Alignment Study (EOTAS). A map was provided to show the EOTAS Concept Plan that shows the existing staging areas, the potential staging areas, the staging areas proposed by other planning efforts, the potential trailheads, and the trails evaluated in the alignment study. Kiran also reported on grant funding for the project that was provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Policy Member Moreno had questions on ownership on the EOTAS project. The County provided information and stated that ownership was both private and public and that trail easements would be required for certain areas.
- Policy Member Moreno requested a tour of the trails.

4. Grant Opportunities Update – All

- City of Chula Vista provided an update on two grants submittals. One submittal was for SANDAG's TransNet Active Transportation Grant Program, and the other was for the Republic Services Community Grant Program which would grant \$250,000 for additional clean up events throughout OVRP.
- Supervisor Vargas asked if the grants have been submitted. City of Chula Vista Joint Staff Member Harold responded and stated that they had been submitted. Supervisor Vargas offered to provide a letter of support for the grant application efforts.

- The City of San Diego joint staff member Laura Ball reported that they were awarded funds in May 2021 for streamflow enhancement and the OVRP Hydrology Study and Restoration Planning Project, and that the City of San Diego would be requesting proposals for consultants to do the work.
- Policy Member Moreno requested a presentation on the OVRP Hydrology Study and Restoration Planning Project once funding and data become available. Policy Member Moreno also thanked the cities for their efforts on these grants.

5. Ranger Reports

a) County of San Diego staff member Charles Gailband provided the following updates for eastern OVRP:

- Partnership with Amazon for tree planting;
- Partnership with Sprockids San Diego for a youth outdoor recreational program at Otay Lakes County Park;
- Partnership between County of San Diego and City of San Diego for a Little Libraries program;
- Upcoming Women in the Wild events in OVRP;
- Recap on recent Boy Scouts events at Camp Bashor;
- Upcoming Green Friday hike;
- Upcoming volunteer day with St. Augustine students; and
- Partnership with Aging and Independence Service (AIS) on Grandparents raising grandchildren events.

Supervisor Vargas expressed how proud she is of the Little Libraries and added that if anyone was interested in a Little Library in their community to reach out to her office or to County of San Diego staff. She also encouraged participation in Women in the Wild events.

b) City of San Diego Park Ranger, Mika Shimada provided the Ranger Report for western OVRP:

- Natural resource management efforts, including removal of invasive and nonnative plants;
- Community outreach and stewardship including
 - Park ranger internship opportunities;
 - Latino Conservation Week by San Diego Audubon Society in July;
 - National Night out at South Bay Recreation Center;
 - 15th Annual Bike the Bay by San Diego Bike Coalition;
 - San Diego Mountain Biking Association Ride on Mountain Bike

Challenge;

- River cleanup with San Diego Coastkeeper; and
- Joint planting event with Institute for Public Strategies.

6. Citizens Advisory Committee Report

- CAC Chair John Zarem shared that he was reelected as Chair and Susie Murphy as Vice Chair. There were five CAC meetings, with Supervisor Vargas in attendance at one of the meetings.
- CAC Chair John Zarem reported out on the following:
 - Reviewed proposal for 198 new apartment units with trail linkage to the park at Palm Ave. and Hollister St.;
 - Issued proclamation for Latino Conservation Week;
 - CAC Letter to SDGE regarding a trail easement request;
 - Reviewed proposal by Caltrans for I-805 bridge options with trail connectivity;
 - US Fish and Wildlife temporarily relocating the bike path behind Home Depot;
 - Swiss Park flooding issue; and
 - OVRP tour regarding reoccurring homelessness issues.

7. CAC Member Comments

- CAC Vice Chair Susie Murphy reported out on the following:
 - Letter to SDGE requesting trail access;
 - Thanked the County of San Diego for grant money;
 - Thanked the City of Chula Vista for access to the trail alignment for Bike the Bay event; and
 - Thanked the City Rangers for the trash pickup.

8. Request for Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

- None

ADJOURNMENT- 3:14 PM • Councilmember Cardenas

The next OVRP PC-CAC will be in 2023.

PC Member Attendees:

Supervisor Vargas

Councilmember Cardenas

Councilmember Moreno

Attendees:

Amy Hoffman

Ben McCue

Blanca Castillo

Brian Albright

Carrie Schneider

Charles Gailband

Chelsea Oakes

Cheryl Goddard

Cristina Santa Maria

Darin Gray

Delanie Medina

Erika Ferreira

Harold Phelps

Joan Schneider

John Zarem

Jose Galaz

Jose Gomez

Juliette Orozco

Kiran Kaur

Laura Ball

Mika Shimada

Mike Diaz

Paul Kilburg

Rick Richardson

Susie Murphy

Todd Phillips

Angelica Davis