



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
JOINT POLICY-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (PC-CAC) MEETING MINUTES  
June 17, 2021  
2:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - 1:02 Supervisor Vargas and Councilmember Cardenas

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comments

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. APPOINT POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR
  - Supervisor Vargas nominated Councilmember Cardenas to OVRP Policy Committee Chair. Andrea Cardenas accepted the nomination.
  - Motion to approve by Supervisor Vargas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmember Cardenas
  - ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2020 PC-CAC MEETING
  - Motion to approve by Councilmember Cardenas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Vargas
  - ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0
3. 2021 MEETING CALENDAR
  - Councilmember Cardenas shared the 2021 OVRP PC-CAC and CAC Meeting Calendar. The 2021 PC-CAC meetings are scheduled for June 17 and December 16. The 2021 CAC meetings are scheduled for May 13, July 29, October 28.
4. CAC VACANCIES (COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO-1, CITY OF SAN DIEGO-0, CITY OF CHULA VISTA-1)
  - Councilmember Cardenas nominated Hale Richardson to the CAC for the City of Chula Vista
  - Motion to approve by Policy Member Cardenas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Vargas
  - ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0
5. PROJECT UPDATES
  - a) Heritage Staging Area & 805 to Heritage Trails – County of San Diego
    - County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Brian Albright introduced the County of San Diego team.
    - County Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur gave an update on the trails system and

staging area that the County recently acquired. The project is an approximately 3.5-mile loop north and south of the Otay River from I-805 to Heritage Road. The County is currently conducting environmental surveys and getting ready to begin design for the project.

- b) Camp Bashor (Otay Lakes Campground) – County of San Diego
  - County Staff Member Josh Bugiel gave an overview of the Boy Scouts of America’s Camp Bashor project located at Otay Lakes County Park. Construction is nearly complete on the approximately 69-acre site which includes a flag plaza, archery range, pavilion, and other amenities. This facility will primarily be used by the Boy Scouts of America but will be open to public group camping reservations.
  - Supervisor Vargas asked if reservations can be made at this time. County Staff Member Josh Bugiel replied that Boy Scouts of America will be running the campground and are still in the process of building a reservations website.
  
- c) Greg Cox Bike Park – County of San Diego and City of Chula Vista
  - County Staff Member Emily Hubbard gave an update on the grand opening of the Greg Cox Bike Park that took place on April 28, 2021. This project is comprised of a bike park on a 3.2-acre site in OVRP Active Recreation Area 6 and was approved by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors in January 2020. The project was also approved by the City of Chula Vista City Council in May 2020.
  - Policy Member Cardenas expressed her excitement in the partnership on the project by the three agencies.
  
- d) Community Garden and Emergency Shelter – City of Chula Vista
  - City of Chula Vista Staff Member Angelica Davis gave an update on the South Bay Emergency Shelter. Staff completed project design and received approval for infrastructure plans in May 2021. The City is getting ready to issue a Request for Proposals for an operator to operate the facility on the city’s behalf. Construction of the site is expected to begin in September 2021.
  - A CAC member asked if a previously discussed issue involving a Deed had been resolved. Angelica Davis responded that the issue had been resolved prior to project approval.
  - CAC members asked if there were any plans for the community garden plots. Director Albright responded that the site for the community garden has not yet been finalized. While this site is still being considered, it has become extremely space constrained with the addition of the Emergency Shelter on site. There are other sites that are being evaluated that may offer greater opportunity, including the Active Recreation Area 3 site.
  - CAC members had several additional questions about the County’s plans for funding in OVRP. Supervisor Vargas offered to attend the next CAC meeting to answer any questions and requested that members coordinate with her Policy Advisor Rosa Olascoaga after the meeting.
  - Supervisor Vargas requested information on the capacity of the Emergency Shelter.

Angelica Davis responded that the Shelter would accommodate 250 individuals but would begin with 60 due to COVID restrictions and funding.

- e) Shinohara Restoration Site – City of Chula Vista
  - City of Chula Vista Staff Member Harold Phelps gave an update on the Shinohara Restoration Project which is located east of I-805 and southeast of the Kohls shopping center in Chula Vista. This restoration site covers 5.5 acres on two parcels. Upon completion of the Shinohara Restoration, the trust property will be acquired by the City of Chula Vista and become part of the Otay Regional Park.
- f) Otay River Restoration – City of Chula Vista
  - City of Chula Vista Staff Member Cheryl Goddard provided an update on the Otay River Restoration Project and shared progress photos throughout the years.
  - The restoration project includes enhancement, rehabilitation, and reestablishment of hydrological processes, vegetation communities, and wildlife habitats associated with the lower river watershed. The first phase of restoration began in 2018 with the planting of 15,000 in the pre-bank.

#### 6. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE - ALL

- County Joint Staff Member Kiran Kaur provided an update for the County of San Diego. In February 2021, the County received a \$450,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board for environmental review for the East Otay Trail Alignment Study. This will evaluate 13 new trail alignments and will cover about 80.5 linear miles of trails.
- City of Chula Vista Joint Staff Member Harold Phelps provided an update on the Otay River Watershed Historical Ecology and Investigation project grant submitted to the California Department of Fish Wildlife (CDFW). The grant application has been submitted and awards are expected to be announced in the next few weeks.
- City of San Diego Joint Staff Member Laura Ball confirmed that the Otay Valley Regional Park Baseline Hydrologic Analysis and Restoration Site Selection Study was approved for funding through the Wildlife Conservation Board's Stream Flow Enhancements Grant Program. The project will include an evaluation of existing hydrologic conditions and identification of up to ten priority restoration areas in OVRP.

#### 7. RANGER REPORTS

- Ranger Mika Shimada, City of San Diego, provided the update for Western OVRP
  - The Otay Valley Regional Park group received a City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Directors award for Outstanding Group Program.
  - Ranger Mika Shimada introduced the newest park ranger, Moises Vasquez Calderon. Moises has an extensive background in restoration, mitigation, and enhancement projects.
  - Ranger Mika Shimada shared that there have been 25 fires in Western OVRP to date in 2021.
  - In January, there was a 4-day joint clean up event in OVRP. Mika thanked San

Diego Police Department, Park Rangers, and Environmental Service Department for the removal of 96 tons of waste in OVRP and shared a map showing the locations of the unsheltered population within OVRP.

- Ranger Lauren Raduc, County of San Diego, provided the update for Eastern OVRP
  - Ranger Lauren Raduc reported that there was a large tree planting effort in Otay Lakes County Park with over 100 trees planted between the picnic area and the campground.
  - During COVID, there was an increase in attendance between March 2020 and February 2021. All reservable areas were closed. All special events were paused, including Movies in the Park. As of April 2021, reservable picnic areas have been reopened and Movies in the Park has resumed at Otay Lakes County Park.

8. **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) REPORT**

- CAC Chair John Zarem shared that he was reelected as CAC Chair and Susie Murphy was elected as CAC Vice Chair. CAC Chair Zarem requested enforcement of attendance requirements at CAC meetings and mentioned the CAC is revisiting sub-committee assignments.

9. **CAC MEMBER COMMENTS**

- CAC Members requested a site visit to the Otay River Restoration site. Joint Staff responded that a site visit will be coordinated as soon as practicable.
- A few CAC members requested additional data on homeless encampments in relation to fires and police activities in OVRP.
- CAC Vice-Chair Susie Murphy shared that Bike the Bay will be happening on August 22 and encouraged attendance at the event.

**REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT** - 1:54

The next OVRP PC-CAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 2021

**PC Member Attendees**

Supervisor Vargas

Councilmember Cardenas

**CAC Member Attendees**

John Zarem

Susie Murphy

Joan Schneider

Ben Vallejos

Carrie Schneider

Cristina Santa Maria

Darin Gray

Lisa Cumper

Jose Galaz

Ben McCue

Rick Richardson

Staff/Other Attendees

Brian Albright  
Blanca Castillo  
Crystal Benham  
Kiran Kaur  
Nick Ferracone  
Chelsea Jander  
Josh Bugiel  
Lauren Raduc  
Emily Hubbard

Laura Ball  
Paul Kilburg  
Andrew Field  
Gerardo Ramirez

Tiffany Allen  
Cheryl Goddard  
Harold Phelps  
Scott Donaghe  
Claudia Ramos  
Anjelica Davis  
Ernesto Pinedo  
Scott Donaghe