



**OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP)  
JOINT POLICY-CITIZEN'S ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2023**

**Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm by Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno on behalf of Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas**

**ROLL CALL:** Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas, Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2022, PC-CAC meeting
  - Motion to approve by Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas

ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0

2. CAC Vacancies (County of San Diego -4, City of San Diego -3, City of Chula Vista -4)
  - Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno introduced CAC nominees Breny Aceituno, Marie Diaz, and Charles Rilli on behalf of the City of San Diego.
  - Joint Staff member Harold Phelps introduced CAC Nominee Nick Martin on behalf of the City of Chula Vista.
  - Motion to appoint all nominees by Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno, 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas

ALL IN FAVOR: 2-0-0

3. Project Updates
  - a) Active Recreation Area #3 – *County of San Diego*
    - County of San Diego Joint Staff member Juliette Orozco gave a brief update on the Active Recreation Area #3 Project. Highlights included project location, amenities on site, funding, public outreach, design, and environmental review.
    - Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno had some questions on funding, acreage, lease agreements, timeframe, and outreach.

b) I-805 to Heritage Zone A Trails – *County of San Diego*

- County of San Diego Joint Staff member Juliette Orozco gave a brief update on the I-805 to Heritage Zone A Trails Project. Highlights included a description of the 3.5-mile loop trail system and staging area, funding timelines, public outreach efforts, design, and environmental review.
- Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas thanked County staff for their work.

c) Emergency Shelter – City of Chula Vista

- City of Chula Vista staff member Angelica Davis shared a video update on the South Bay Emergency Shelter.
  - The video outlined the development of the project and opening of the shelter.
  - Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas had questions on the vetting process for potential shelter occupants, funding allocation, available resources, and occupancy. Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas expressed her interest in collaborating with the City of Chula Vista to make sure that the facilities are being utilized to their fullest extent.
- Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno had questions on services available and allocation of resources.

4. Grant Opportunities Update – *All*

a) Republic Services OVRP Preserve Revitalization Grant

- Risa Baron from Republic Services gave a presentation on Neighborhood National Promise for the Otay River Valley Revitalization Project.
- The presentation included a description of Republic Services' sustainability efforts and charitable giving, an overview of the Urban Corp of San Diego National Neighborhood Promise Grant, a description of the Otay River Valley Revitalization Project, and details for the upcoming Neighborhood Promise Volunteer Day.
- Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas and Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno both thanked Risa Baron for the presentation.

b) Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Enhancing Connections and Restoration within OVRP – City of San Diego

- Director of the City of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation Andy Field introduced City of San Diego Joint Staff Member Laura Ball to present the item.
  - City of San Diego Joint Staff Member Laura Ball presented on the

WCB Enhancing Connections and Restoration within OVRP Project, including a brief introduction on the grant application to the WCB, which requested funding for planning and environmental for restoration of the former OVRP Active Recreation #7 area.

- WCB Staff is recommending approval of the grant for funding and to enter into a grant agreement at the November 15, 2023 WCB Board Meeting.
- Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno asked if staff had considered utilizing Proposition 68 funding for projects within OVRP.
  - Director of the City of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation Andy Field responded, stating that staff was aware of Proposition 68 funding, along with additional opportunities for federal funding through Land and Water Conservation Fund program, and that staff would continue to explore available grant opportunities.

#### 5. Ranger Reports

- a) City of San Diego Park Ranger Mika Shimada provided updates on natural resources management, community outreach and stewardship, events held in the park, and maintenance activities.
  - Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas asked if there were grants or funding for the disposal of the tires. Ranger Mika confirmed that the grant disposal efforts are supported with a grant from Urban Corps.
  - Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno thanked the rangers for all their work and added that there are approximately 202 encampments with the majority being within the City of San Diego.
- b) County of San Diego Senior Park Ranger Lauren Raduc provided an overview of events held at Otay Lakes County Park.
  - Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora 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 the County of San Diego.
  - Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas also stated that the County has a tree planting goal of 10,000 trees.
  - Brian Albright, Director of County Parks of Recreation, added that as of the beginning of the month there were 8,500 trees planted.

#### 6. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

- CAC Chair John Zarem shared that he attended the Hawktober event and praised County of San Diego staff member Charles Gailband on the event and also shared that he recently visited OVRP and highlighted some areas for improved maintenance.
- CAC Chair John Zarem reported that a request for expanded trail access

sent via letter from the CAC to San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE) was denied.

- The request was to include public trail use on an existing SDGE utilities road adjacent to the Otay River Mitigation Bank and City of Chula Vista Greenbelt Trail Corridor.
  - CAC Vice Chair Susie Murphy added that the CAC will continue to request this trail easement.
  - CAC Chair John Zarem shared that the CAC provided input on the Bicycle Bridge portion of the Caltrans I-805 South Pavement Rehabilitation and Asset Management Project.
  - CAC Chair Zarem announced that this was his last meeting as a CAC member as he will be focusing his time on his recent appointment to the International Boundary and Water Commission's Citizen's Forum.
  - CAC Vice Chair Susie Murphy shared support and appreciation for staff's assistance with recent events held at OVRP.
  - CAC Vice Chair Susie Murphy also shared that San Diego Mountain Biking Association recently completed their work on the OVRP Boardwalk and expressed appreciation of the County's support for funding the effort through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.
  - CAC member Breny Aceituno expressed appreciation for the work completed by City of San Diego rangers.
7. Request for Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings
- Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno requested an overview on the OVRP Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Bylaws.
  - Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno requested a staff-led tour of OVRP.

**ADJOURNMENT- 2:07 PM • Policy Committee Member Vivian Moreno on behalf of Policy Committee Vice Chair Nora Vargas**

The next OVRP PC-CAC will be in 2024.

PC Member Attendees  
Supervisor Nora Vargas

Councilmember Vivian Moreno

CAC Members

Breny Aceituno

Cesar Castro

Cristina Santa Maria

John Zarem

Nick Martin

Susie Murphy

Attendees

Andrew Black

Alyssa Del Rosario

Brian Albright

Blanca Castillo

Camille Wildburger

Harold Phelps

John Vogel

Juliette Orozco

Laura Ball

Lauren Raduc

Maykent Salazar

Mika Shimada