

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Task Force was held on Wednesday March 18th, 2009. City Administration Building, 12th Floor Conference Room, 202 C Street, San Diego

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego
Councilmember Brian Jones, City of Santee
Dorothy Leonard, Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee Chair
Ruth Sterling, City of La Mesa

City of San Diego

Park and Recreation Department: Open Space Deputy Director Chris Zirkle
Open Space District Manager Steve Haupt
Mission Trails Regional Park Senior Ranger Tracey Walker
Water Department: Nelson Manville
Council District 7 Staff Representatives: Nathan Batchelder
San Diego City CPCI, Michelle Abella-Shon
Engineering and Capital Projects, Darren Greenhaugh, Ed Fordan, Michelle Garcia-Quillico

Members Absent

Supervisor Pam Slater, County of San Diego
Supervisor Diane Jacob, County of San Diego
Councilmember Donna Frye, City of San Diego

Guests

San Diego County Water Authority: Mojgan Poursadighi, Craig Balben
City of Santee, John Coates
City of Santee, John Coates
San Diego Mountain Bike Association, Kim Wiley
MTRP Foundation, Don Steele

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marti Emerald at 12:15 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 21, 2009 (Jones/Sterling) carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Marti Emerald noted how much she enjoyed the new predator exhibit at the Visitor Center. Marti also voiced her support for the new comfort station project to be constructed at the Equestrian Stating area.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE/FOUNDATION REPORT

Mission Trails Citizens' Advisory Committee, Chair Dorothy Leonard reported on the CAC meeting of March 3rd.

- The CAC approved support for the Sycamore Landfill antenna facility external modifications.
- The CAC is recommending approval for agenda item # 203, "the use of San Diego Foundation Funds for a new History of Water exhibit."
- The predator exhibit is nearing completion with the addition of the interpretative panels.

WATER DEPARTMENT

- Lake Murray Report Nelson Manville reported: The County Water Authority completed a ground water shut down process which impacted Lake Murray. Further, locations south of MCAS Miramar were without water for some time as well. Boat launch facility operations and some electrical service were lost for a short time. All services and facilities are back up and running at this time. Some bass fry located closer to shore were lost due to the lowering of the water level. During this time of year, bass reproduce in the zone close to the shoreline.
- The water temperature is 61 degrees.
- Fish and Game donates trout to Lake Murray on a regular basis. The last fill was 1,600 lbs.
- The flower bloom around the lake is in full swing.
- Culvert work going on around the lake will impact user traffic for some time.
- There is a "flasher" appearing around Lake Murray during early morning hours. It is advised that single women hike those hours with a companion. San Diego Police have been made aware and are looking to service this individual as soon as possible. Lake security patrols have been increased and patrons are being notified as well.
- Mission Trails Foundation Executive Director Jay Wilson will be working with Lake Murray staff and the Lake Murray Kiwanis on a special upcoming project.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- The San Diego County Water informational kiosks have been installed at key locations around MTRP and include current project status reports and trail access maps.
- The Kumeyaay Lake invasive water primrose grant is being completed with the final

portion of the grant recently awarded to the contractor. The project should be finished in several weeks. Removal of the invasive primrose will improve our mosquito abatement program as well.

- Mission Trails Ranger Staff, Mission Trails Foundation, San Diego State University, the San Diego River Conservancy and the San Diego River Park Foundation are partnering to establish the first wireless, autonomous watershed monitoring stations in the United States. The first station will be set up at Mission Trails.

ACTION ITEMS

201. Park Use Permit review - Deputy Director, Open Space Division Chris Zirkle reported that the liability question/concern of CAC members reviewing event applications of a certain size at Mission Trails Regional Park has not been received from the City Attorney as of this report date. Chair Marti Emerald noted that she would send a note to Deputy City Attorney Kim Davies for a date certain.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/JONES) to continue Item #201, until the May 20 meeting of the MTRP Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

202. Appointment of City of La Mesa and City of Santee MTRP CAC representatives. City of La Mesa Mayor Madrid appointed Shannon O’Dunn as the representative to the MTRP CAC from the City of La Mesa

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (STERLING/JONES) to accept Shannon O’Dunn as the new representative to the MTRP CAC from the city of La Mesa. The motion passed unanimously.

203. Use of “the San Diego Foundation” fund in amount of \$2,898.81 toward a new history of water/water conservation exhibit to replace the current history of water exhibit. The County Water Authority, City Water and the Foundation are partnering to provide this much needed upgrade. Dorothy Leonard explained how the monies would be used. A discussion on project money acquisition and grant application process through the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was discussed. Mission Trails Executive Director Jay Wilson will be the MTRP project contact.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/JONES) to authorize the use of “the San Diego Foundation” fund in the amount of \$2,898.81 toward a new water history/conservation exhibit. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. Update on efforts by the County of San Diego to acquire land for the Stowe Trail Council Member Brian Jones reported that Dianne Jacobs’ office is in the process of

negotiating with Miramar to acquire some acreage that sits between Santee and the Gooden Ranch. The purpose is to complete a trail called the Stowe Trail. There is a break in the trail that lies on Miramar property. It is desirable to gain access to this section so the trail can be completed. It was hoped that the appraisal of the 280 acres would be somewhere around 3 million dollars. It in fact came in at 7.34 million dollars. Work on a positive resolution will continue with the Navy.

302. San Diego County Water Authority Projects

- a. Pipeline 4 was identified as a possible break risk. Aggressive efforts resulted in the project being completed ahead of schedule.
- b. The Mission Trails Tunnel: The Tunnel is on schedule and going well. Completion is still targeted at July of 2011. It has been determined that some blasting will be necessary. The project is about 8% complete.
- c. Pipeline 3 relining - This project has entered its final phase with clean-up of the area. The Jackson Drive area should be cleared out by the end of April.
- d. Flow Regulatory Structure two-year delay - The project construction is to start in July 2011 and finish in 2013. The SDCWA was asked by the MTRP CAC and several other community groups to identify and reduce impacts of this delay. The related picnic table and shade structure project process is moving forward. It is also possible that the staging area at the terminus of Claremont Mesa Blvd will be open to the general public on Saturdays and Sundays in a month or so. It was mentioned that the old broken concrete construction debris in the park just off the Calle De Vida entrance couldn't be removed, since over the years it has become habitat for native animals and plants.

302. CIP Project Updates

Old Mission Dam Maintenance Project - The 1472 (City Council approval) is moving forward. This project will now fall under a new CIP. This provides a "clean slate" and should expedite the effort. However, it was also noted that this project is not on the "highest priority list". CAC Chair Dorothy Leonard stated that this project is on a very high priority for the CAC due to the amount of time it took (13 years) to realize the most recent Old Mission Dam dredging operation. It was suggested that a meeting be held between members of the MTRP Task Force and the Regional Water Quality Control Board for a clarification on their position on issuing a multi-year "master permit" for Old Mission Dam maintenance.

- a. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station status report - This project is going to council (Item #110) next Tuesday. Project funding is made up from \$209,000 (General Fund) plus \$300,000 (Antenna Fund). Both the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee and the MTRP Task Force have approved this project's monetary allocation. The process of bringing two (as needed) architects into the process is underway. The process in identifying possible physical attributes of the structure and sewer line issues were discussed. It was noted that this previous process was approved as part of the building site development permit for the whole project. It was stressed that CAC project briefings will continue through the process.

- b. MTRP Resource Management Plan and Master Plan update - A RFP (Request For Proposal) has been drafted. It has been reviewed and re-assigned to Jeff Harkness.

304. Status of process to officially name the street at the Equestrian Staging Area - The process is completed and the “street” is officially named the Equestrian Circle. The lengthy process has been completed. Members thanked 7th District Council Representative Nathan Batchelder for his diligent work in seeing this project through to fruition.

COMMUNICATIONS

It was suggested that future Task Force Meetings be held at the Mission Trails Visitor Center. Scheduling issues would be reviewed for membership attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Senior Park Ranger
Tracey Walker
Staff Representative