

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MARCH 15, 2012  
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Lorie Zapf, City of San Diego  
Councilmember Ruth Sterling, City of La Mesa  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens Advisory Committee

Members Absent

Councilmember Rob McNelis, City of Santee  
Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, County of San Diego

City of San Diego

Matt Sanford, MTRP Senior Ranger  
Steve Haupt, Manager, Open Space Division, P&R Dept.  
Chris Zirkle, Deputy Director, Open Space Division, P&R Dept.  
Gayle Havens, City Water Dept.  
Mary Ann Wallace, Office of Councilmember Marti Emerald  
Shirley Owen, Office of Councilmember Lori Zapf

County of San Diego

Janice Downs, Office of Supervisor Diane Jacob

Guests

Laura Thornton, MCAS Miramar  
Mike Mizell, MCAS Miramar  
Carl Redding, MCAS Miramar  
Tyler Balen, MCAS Miramar  
Gardner Grady, SDMBA  
Kim Wiley, SDMBA  
Karen Henry, SDCWA  
Craig Balben, SDCWA  
Brent Fountain, SDCWA  
Stephen Houlahan, resident of Santee  
Kevin Brewston, resident of Santee  
Gary Funk  
Jennifer Spencer  
Theresa McCarthy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Lori Zapf at 1:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/STERLING) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2012. Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUENCES – NONECHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Mary Ann Wallace for Chair/Councilmember Marti Emerald

There will be a California Energy Commission workshop on the Quail Brush/Cogentrix project taking place on March 22, 2012, 5 PM, at the MTRP Visitor Center. The project will also be going to the Navajo and Tierrasanta planning groups in the next 30 days.

Citizens Advisory Committee Report - Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the CAC meeting held on March 6, 2012.

- Recommended staff approval of the Dirt Devil Racing 15k walk/run taking place on August 12 at the equestrian staging area.
- There were speakers that oppose the Quail Brush/Cogentrix power plant project in attendance. This project will come to the MTRP CAC because it is in the MTRP Design District. The only thing the MTRP CAC will be reviewing will be how the project conforms to the Mission Trails Design District ordinance. The CAC will be making a recommendation to the City of San Diego Development Services Department. This project will not be coming to the MTRP Task Force, but will eventually be heard by the San Diego City Council for a vote on the project.

MTRP Foundation Report – Dorothy Leonard reported the following for the MTRP Foundation

- The Foundation has moved forward to refurbish/reconstruct the signs at the Old Mission Dam, the Campground, and at Lake Murray Park. These signs were in the worst condition of all the MTRP monument signs, and they were able to get the work done for \$2700. The rest of the signs that need refurbishing/reconstruction will be done in the next fiscal year, costing roughly \$2000.
- On Saturday, April 28, the City will be sponsoring a Kumeyaay flag-raising at the campground. This has been a longtime dream of Jane Dumas. MTRP Task Force members will receive an invitation.
- The annual Explore MTRP Day will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 9 AM to 2 PM.

STAFF REPORTSA. Water Department's Lake Murray Report – Gayle Havens, Lake Murray Reservoir Keeper

- The last of 3 SDCWA shutdowns will be occurring on March 17 – 27. Water will be drawn directly from the lake, so the water level will be down on these days.

- Trout fishing will probably start slowing down because the water is getting too warm. There have been several large, largemouth bass caught, and we're looking forward to a good bass fishing year.
  - In May the San Diego River Foundation will be doing a service project.
  - Eagle Scouts constructed 6 winch box covers using lumber purchased by the City from La Mesa Lumber. These boxes are used to protect the winches that move the docks in and out.
- B. City of Santee Community Services Department Report – *Bill Maertz, Department Director*
- The City received a petition from East County equestrians about concerns that the City of Santee is trying to limit horse access through Santee to MTRP. The City is pursuing SANDAG money for Class 1 hard surface trails, but we have no policy for precluding soft surface trails. We can do hard and soft surface trails. The City has no policy stating that we're trying to limit horses through Santee to MTRP.
  - We have an alternate plan, developed in 2005, that takes horse trails past the Lakeside ball fields through the north side of Santee into Sycamore Canyon, and into MTRP. We're going to setup a meeting with the equestrian groups to clarify this issue.
- C. Park Staff/ Ranger's Report – *Matt Sanford, MTRP Senior Ranger*
- City staff and KTU+A continue to work on the MTRP Master Plan update and NRMP. Senior Ranger Sanford, Dorothy Leonard, Nancy Acevedo, and Dick Murphy attended the last of 3 CAC ad-hoc subcommittee meetings with KTU+A and Jeff Harkness, and provided comments about the draft plan.
  - Sr. Ranger Sanford coordinated with staff from MCAS Miramar on the installation of federal property signs north of East Elliot. Three signs were installed on federal property only.
  - Park staff will be re-installing 3 signs in the climbers loop area to assist with rescue operations. The original signs were stolen back in October 2011, and we have been waiting for new materials to arrive and for the signs to be created through the City sign shop. SDFD will be notified once the signs are back in place, and park staff will monitor their effectiveness throughout the year.
  - We have a couple projects that are coming up which are related to a FEMA grant we received to fix damage caused by strong storms in December 2010 and January 2011. The first is to repair erosion damage in the Visitor Center parking lot, and the second is to grade several eroded sections of the Barker Way service road on the backside of Cowles Mountain.
  - The ongoing Trail Guide training is going very well. Final exams are Wednesday 3/28, and the graduation ceremony is Saturday 3/31, 9am, in the Visitor Center amphitheater and classrooms.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The following people spoke out against the proposed Quail Brush/Cogentrix peaker power plant: Kevin Brewston and Stephen Houlihan.

ACTION ITEMS101. CAC reappointment – *Chair, Marti Emerald*

- a) Roger Utt, County of San Diego Park & Recreation Committee

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (LEONARD/ZAPF) to approve the reappointment.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS301. Update on efforts by the County of San Diego to acquire land for the Stowe Trail from MTRP to Sycamore Canyon Preserve – *Supervisor Dianne Jacob*

- The Stowe trail is not only a historic trail, but an important north/south connection that will eventually connect MTRP to Goodan Ranch, Sycamore Preserve, and the West Sycamore area of MTRP.
- The discussion about building this trail started with the US Navy in 1993, and the thought was to take this unusable piece of land off their hands, but the commanding officers at the time said no.
- A bill was passed by the US Congress in 2002 to come up with a memorandum of understanding with the Marines and the County to start working on a purchase of approximately 370 acres of land.
- The County allocated \$565,000 for this purchase, with \$75,000 spent so far.
- The appraisal of the land was done, which came in higher than expected, and the County continued to work through the process of purchasing the land.
- With the arrival of Colonel Richie, the Marines reversed their decision to sell the land to the County, but the County continued to pursue the acquisition by engaging their Washington lobbyists.
- Supervisor Jacob and General Jackson exchanged letters about the potential purchase of this land, and eventually the Marines met with County staff in 2009 to review possible solutions.
- The County proposed 3 solutions:
  1. Buy the property and take title to the land.
  2. Ask for a trail easement. The County would assume all liability and indemnify the military. Fencing around the land would be provided to keep people off the base property.
  3. Get a license from the Marines for public trail access through the base. There is precedent on this proposal with the public trail access through Camp Pendleton.
- The County resolved all environmental, liability, indemnification and other issues that were raised by the Marines in the proposed solutions.
- Several trail alternatives were proposed by the County to bypass the base property.
- No resolution has been reached yet; the Marines answer is still no.
- Supervisor Jacob will be going to Washington to try and convince decision makers to move forward on this project.
- Letters of support are encouraged, and can be sent to Supervisor Jacob's office.

302. San Diego County Water Authority – *SDCWA Staff*

- a) Pipeline 4 realigning
  - Brent Fountain reported that SDCWA have found that they have had failures with pre-stressed concrete pipes over the years.
  - They have been realigning since early 2000.
  - This will be a 6-8 month project, and will be starting at the north end of MTRP, and finishing at the north end of Lake Murray.
  - There will be 20,000 feet of pipe for line 3 and 1500 feet of pipeline 4
  - There are 4 portals in the park that they will be working on, and 5 along Jackson Drive. They should be at the Jackson Drive portals by the end of the year.
  - They will be using the north end of the Jackson Drive Staging area for their equipment beginning August 15, and lasting until early 2013. The staging area will remain open, with park visitor parking kept to the south end of the lot.
- b) FRS II
  - Craig Balben reported that there is an underground reservoir that will eventually connect up with a pipeline tunnel.
  - This project was delayed by their SDCWA board of directors until mid-2014.
  - The design for this project is shelved, but they don't anticipate any more changes.
- c) Lake Murray Control Valve
  - Karen Henry reported that the purpose of the valve is to regulate flow for the City water treatment plant as well as to the south bay. It will work in conjunction with the FRS II.
  - The proposed work site is on the west side of Baltimore Drive.
  - They are hiring a design consultant, and will be seeking input from various community/park groups.
  - They will be starting their supplemental environmental impact report.
  - They are looking at a 16 month construction period, beginning around the end of 2014.

### 303. CIP Project Updates

- a) MTRP Master Plan and Resource Management Plan – *Matt Sanford for Project Manager Jeff Harkness, City of San Diego Development Services Dept. & Mark Carpenter, KTU+A*

City Staff have distributed the first draft of the master plan to City Departments for review and are awaiting comments. Staff and the consultant have met, and will continue meeting with the CAC ad-hoc subcommittee to review the draft document.
- b) Equestrian staging Area Comfort Station/Service Building – *Matt Sanford for Resident Engineer Carlos Contreras*

The contractor is finished with the roof and is now installing the drywall in the restrooms. He should finish the mud and tape by Friday. The consultant is picking out the color for the paint and painting of the walls should be complete by Friday as well (weather permitting). The stainless steel counter tops are due to arrive next week. The only thing pending is the meshing that goes between the roof and the block wall

and that's supposed to arrive in two weeks. The meshing is being powder coated and galvanized. April 24<sup>th</sup> is the planned end of construction, but rain and others factors may delay it.

304. Equestrian Staging Area Comfort Station/Service Building Dedication – *Marti Emerald*  
The preference is to have it before Explore Mission Trails Day. The Foundation normally provides refreshments/snacks. Park staff will work with the Foundation on a program, and invites will be done by email.

#### AJOURNMENT

The Task Force meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 PM.

#### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 1:00 PM.