

**Minutes of the Meeting of the September 21, 2023**  
**Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force**  
**Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor & Interpretive Center**  
**1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Councilmember Raul Campillo, City of San Diego  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee  
Councilmember Dustin Trotter, City of Santee  
Councilmember Colin Parent, City of La Mesa

Members Absent

Supervisor Vacant Seat, County of San Diego  
Supervisor Joel Anderson, County of San Diego  
Councilmember Kent Lee, City of San Diego

Staff

Julie Aeilts, OCA Senior Park Ranger, Mission Trails Regional Park  
Vicram Vettiyil, Office of Councilmember Campillo  
Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director, Open Space Division  
Nick Chavez, Community Services Director, City of Santee

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair Raul Campillo at 10:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (PARENT/TROTTER) to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES - None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- *Councilmember Campillo*

- Looking forward to this robust agenda and exciting meeting. Thanks to the CAC for their work getting items ready for the Task Force.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable)

- None

ACTION ITEMS

101. City of Santee Mesa Road Project – *Nick Chavez, Community Service Director, City of Santee*

## MTRP Task Force meeting minutes – September 21, 2023

- Copies of the Mesa Road Project PowerPoint were printed out and made available for review. Chavez discussed the project overview and its location south of Big Rock Park on Mesa Road, and elaborated on the joint ownership, funding, and the environmental guidelines for determining biological impacts. Improvements to the area include an additional 18 parking stalls and a public space with picnic tables, interpretive signs, a bike repair station and trail kiosk. Seeking approval from MTRP Task Force, approving the project in concept form.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (TROTTER/ PARENT) to approve the City of Santee Mesa Road Project in concept as described. Motion carried unanimously.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 301. State of California Legislative Update – *Assemblyman Chris Ward, AD-78*

- Chris Ward recently assumed his new role as assemblyman for our district. Recognizes that our parks are the lifeline of our communities and is excited to serve our neighborhoods. Explained his focus on environmental/climate change-related policies, including transportation, and extreme heat issues, greenhouse gas deduction, and long-term drought concerns. Praised the bridge river project. Introduced a bond measure to support safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, extreme heat mitigation, flood risk reduction efforts and other environmental concerns. Climate Catalyst Fund will also support private and public sector for climate-related measures.

#### 302. San Diego River Crossing Bridge Project – PRJ – 1050170 –*Evan Lakin with KPFF*

- Lakin announced that they have made it through most of the boring permit process; it will be reviewed on September 26. Issuance could take 10-14 days. During this time, a preliminary survey (3-days in advance of borings) for endangered/threatened species will also be conducted. On site boring is expected to begin in October, though this will depend on rainfall, reservoir releases upstream, etc. For now, boring on the south side of the river only. Park staff is anticipating the possibility of temporary trail closures and will place appropriate signage as needed.

#### 303. Stowe Trail status report – *Erika Ferreira*

- DREAM did make an offer to the property owner, but the owner declined the offer due to the possibility of an adjacent neighbor developing their property. No acquisition at this time.

#### 304. Old Mission Dam Dredging project status report – *Erika Ferreira*

- The Engineering and Capital Improvements Department is currently working toward getting a consultant on board. After that process is complete, the permit application can move forward.

### CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT– *Dorothy Leonard, Chair MTRP CAC*

- None

### MTRP FOUNDATION REPORT – *Jennifer Morrissey, Executive Director, MTRPF*

## MTRP Task Force meeting minutes – September 21, 2023

- Moving forward with the appraisal of two parcels in East Elliott, with the help of a grant from SD River Park Conservancy.
- Also working on a grant proposal through the San Diego River Conservancy for non-native plant removal projects. Working with City staff to determine locations for projects.
- Received a 4-year grant from SANDAG to restore thorn mint.
- Interpretive updates: field trips will soon resume (both City and Foundation staff saw 7,000 students total last academic year), round two of Eco Ambassadors, and the Trail Tykes is ever popular (hopefully it will soon be introduced in Spanish)
- CA Clean Air Day/ Rooting for Clean Air Event on September 28, including a tree/shrub distribution and lecture.

### STAFF REPORTS –

#### City of Santee Community Services Department – Nick Chavez

- In addition to the aforementioned updates at Big Rock Park, the restrooms there will also be improved.

#### MTRP Senior Ranger Report - Julie Aeilts

- There has been an uptick in transient activity with the implementation of City's camping ordinance. Rangers have adjusted their schedules to monitor areas in the early am/late pm.
- Pleased to announce the hiring of Park Ranger Jesus Fuentes; almost at full staff again!
- Field trips and volunteer work events are back after the summer hiatus.
- KLC Bridge is back in the water and working again.

#### Open Space Staff Report-Erika Ferreira

- KLC Bridge materials and hardware were purchased with the support of the MTRP Foundation.
- The Mission Trails Golf Course lease with the city is set to expire. The Department of Real Estate and Airport Management is working on the process to renew/update/begin a new request for proposal process (ideally, 20-year lease.)
- Senior Park Ranger updates: two senior park rangers at MTRP, selections to be made by the end of October.
- The electrical line running up Cowles Mountain was de-energized back in April by SDG&E due to a broken insulator. The city has been advised that the existing poles also need to be replaced. Solar is not feasible due to the radio towers' electrical demand. City and County staff are meeting to discuss project and funding options.

ADOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 10:59.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 16, 2023, 10:00 AM