AGENDA

ORANGE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 7:00 p.m.

JOHN KOOS
Chair
Fourth District

JOE MULLER
Vice Chair
Coastal Cities

BERT ASHLAND
First District

DAVE SHAWVER
Inland Cities

DAVID HANSON
Third District

MICHAEL POSEY
Second District

JUSTIN MCCUSKER
Fifth District

Executive Officer
Stacy Blackwood

The Orange County Parks Commission welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, the Orange County Parks Commission will be conducting its meeting remotely. While there will not be a physical location for the meeting, the public is invited to observe the meeting by dialing +1-415-655-0001, using Access Code 286 112 375. Any member of the public wishing to speak should submit the following information no later than 5pm the day of the meeting to Suchitra.Vattyam@ocparks.com or 949-923-3785:

1. The email subject line or voicemail must state the following: Request to Provide Public Comment at OC Parks Commission Meeting on specify meeting date.
2. Name of Person Requesting to Speak
3. Organization Represented or City of Residence
4. Phone Number that will be used to call into the meeting (important)
5. Specify Agenda Item Number or Topic

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting shall notify OC Parks at 949-923-3785 or Suchitra.Vattyam@ocparks.com by 5pm on the Monday preceding the meeting. Please provide your name and contact phone number or email.

All supporting documentation is available for public review at https://www.ocparks.com/about/commission under the “Agendas and Minutes” link or by calling 949-923-3785 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Orange County Parks Commission
Duties and Responsibilities

(O.C. Codified Ordinances Sec. 2-2-19: Paraphrased)

Except as otherwise provided, the Orange County Parks Commission shall be advisory to the Board of Supervisors and to the Director of OC Parks, and shall have the power and duty:

1. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors plans and policies for the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of the harbors, beaches and regional parks of the County;

2. On request of the Board of Supervisors, to advise the Board and make recommendations on any matter pertaining to harbors, beaches and regional parks, and any other matters referred by the Board;

3. On request of the Director, to advise on any question of administrative policy and regarding any matter to be decided by the Director under this division;

4. On appeal from an administrative decision by the Director, to act as a board of administrative review;

5. To make such investigations as it may deem necessary in the exercise of its powers;

6. To perform the duties and functions of the County Fish and Game Commission assigned by either statute or this code, and consider methods for the propagation and protection of fish and game in the State of California and County of Orange. The Commission shall be advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

OC Parks Commission Regular Meeting Schedule: First Thursday, Monthly, 7:00 p.m.
I. ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission, and are not contained in tonight’s agenda.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Items A-B)
The following items on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Welcome back to Bert Ashland, First District Commissioner.

B. Approve Commission minutes for March 5, 2020.

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (Item A)

A. PARK ABANDONMENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONVEY LAND – ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is planning a construction project on State Route 133 (SR-133), which includes safety improvements, undergrounding of utilities, and addition of a bike lane. Park abandonment of an unused portion of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and modification to the premises managed by OC Parks under a Lease with the City of Laguna Beach are needed to facilitate the project.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that the Corner Parcel at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park is not required for County use and approve actions related to park abandonment of the Corner Parcel.

2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary for County staff to approve and execute all real estate instruments to transfer the parcel to a qualifying public entity for reasonable consideration based on the market value for the property’s intended use, subject to compliance with County Regional Riding and Hiking Trail policies and satisfaction of Park Abandonment requirements related thereto.

3. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary to amend the 2009 Amended and Restated Lease for the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park between the County and the City of Laguna Beach to
remove parcels required for a Caltrans project along State Route 133, upon approval of County Counsel.

V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. OC PARKS OPERATIONS AND BUDGET UPDATE

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

OC Parks now offers a robust suite of family-friendly virtual programming and highlights to educate, entertain, and support recreation within local neighborhoods. The programs are a combination of live and recorded events that can be accessed on both Facebook and Instagram.

OC Parks features the following daily event themes:

- #MondayMemories: Mondays will feature content provided by Archaeology / Paleontology or Historical staff.
- #TriviaTuesdays: Tuesdays will feature plant or wildlife trivia curated by field staff.
- #WildlifeWednesday: Wednesdays will feature wildlife updates from the OC Zoo or parks.
- #ThrowbackThursday: Thursdays will feature "throwback" posts highlighting past or classic content.
- #FeatureFriday: Fridays will feature staff sharing interesting information and highlights from their parks or facilities.
- #ScenicSaturday: Saturdays will feature various scenic sights from throughout the parks.
- Sundays will feature "The Week Ahead" infographics alerting followers of weekly content to come.

VI. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
I. ROLL CALL

Chair Koos, Vice-Chair Muller, and Commissioners Shawver and McCusker were present. Commissioners Posey, Hanson and Ashland were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission, and are not contained in tonight’s agenda.

Greg Stone, representing the OC Modeler’s Association, provided information and answered the Commissioner’s questions. 
Michael Wellborn, representing Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks, had comments on trail safety.
Steve Sheffield, representing Bosch and National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), had comments on ebikes and racing events.
Jon Kearley, representing SHARE Mountain Bike Club, had comments on trail work, trail safety and on planning for the future.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Items A – B)

The following items on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Welcome back to Bert Ashland, First District Commissioner.

Continued by Chair Koos to next meeting.

B. Approve Commission minutes for February 6, 2020.

Motion: Commissioner McCusker
2nd: Vice-Chair Muller
Approved 4-0

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (Items A – D)

A. OC PARKS BUDGET PRESENTATION

Staff will provide information on the current fiscal year and upcoming fiscal year 2020-21 budgets.
Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks Director, provided presentation and answered questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review and provide input on the OC Parks FY 2020-21 Budget.

Commissioners discussed, asked questions and provided input.

B. OC LOOP PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation on the OC Loop and updates on activities related to construction of its remaining segments.

Tuan Richardson, Project Manager III, provided presentation and answered questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file.

C. SELECTION OF NEW TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER

Selection of a new member for the Trails Subcommittee is required to fill a currently vacant at-large seat.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Select one of the following individuals to serve as an at-large member on the Trails Subcommittee:

1. Linda Bogue
2. Virginia Webber

Chair Koos made a motion to select Webber as the Trails Subcommittee member.
2nd: Commissioner McCusker
Approved 4-0

Motion rescinded by Chair Koos and Commissioner Shawver to allow for interview of both candidates by Chair and Alternate Chair of the Subcommittee.
2nd: Commissioner McCusker
Approved 4-0
D. APRIL FIELD TRIP

In October 2019, your Commission approved its 2020 meeting and field trip schedule.

The locations below are options for the April field trip:

a) Irvine Ranch Open Space – 2014 Donation Lands
b) OC Loop – North County Sections and Gaps
c) Irvine Regional Park and Orange County Zoo (recommend postponing until September field trip, when large mammal exhibit is under construction)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Select a field trip location.
2. Confirm Friday, April 10, as the field trip date.

Chair Koos made a motion to select OC Loop as the location of the field trip on April 10.
Approved 4-0

V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks Director, provided updates and information and answered Commissioners’ questions.

A. NIGUEL SHORES REVETMENT UPDATE

Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks Director, deferred update on Item V.A to a future meeting.

B. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – TOPICS OF INTEREST

C. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Wild Tales – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Friday, March 6, 10:30am – 11:30am
- Bring your little wild ones to learn about nature and enjoy the outdoors.
- Join us for a fun-filled parent and child experience including storytelling, a guided nature walk, and arts and crafts.
- Program and crafts are tailored for preschool level (ages 2-5), however all ages that enjoy the experience are welcome to attend.
- Online registration required, $5 fee per child.
Wilderness Access Day – Blackstar Canyon – Saturday, March 7, 8:00am – 2:00pm

- Black Star Canyon offers pleasant introductory trails for beginner hikers and families as well as challenging experiences for seasoned trail users.
- Designated trails are available for self-guided hiking, biking and equestrian use. Take time to explore the local plant communities and beautiful scenery in easy 30-minute walks or take in 7 miles in a strong cardio trek.
- Ages 12 and up; minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids’ Fishing Derby – Mile Square Regional Park – Saturday, March 14, 7:30am – 12:00pm

- OC Parks, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Angler Chronicles host the 20th Annual Kids’ Fishing Derby at the North Lake at Mile Square Regional Park.
- The lake will be stocked with more than 1,000 pounds of trout or catfish for the derby. Kids ages 6 to 15 fish for free at the Fishing Derby and compete to win prizes for finalists and winners in different age groups.
- Registration on-site from 7:30am to 8:30am. Event and parking are free. Limited quantity of fishing rods available for loan.

Habitat Hero Saturdays – Caspers Wilderness Park – Saturday, March 14, 9:00am – 11:00am

- Become a Habitat Hero by joining Caspers Wilderness Park staff in projects that will enhance habitat for local wildlife. Activities may include non-native plant removal, planting natives, watering, and trash cleanup.
- Tools and training will be provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, hat, sunscreen, etc. Bring water and snacks, and gloves if you have them. Minors must always have a legal guardian present.
- Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

Distance Hike to Mini Moab – Fremont Canyon – Friday, March 27, 7:00am – 2:00pm

- Come along with us on this epic hike from the bottom of Fremont Canyon to the bold, sandstone outcrops marking the ridgeline locally known as “Mini Moab.” This extremely challenging out-and-back hike is for experienced, physically fit distance hikers.
- We climb steeply along ranch roads past an abandoned coal mine, the Fremont Weather Station, remnants of a rare stand of Tecate cypress, and Lizard Rock. After a break for snacks and to enjoy the view, we'll retrace our steps back to the Fremont Staging Area.
- Ages 14 and up; minors must be accompanied by an adult.
- Registration is required.
VI. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 8:51 pm
SUBJECT: Park Abandonment and Authorization to Convey Land – Aliso and Wood Canyons

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is planning to construct improvements to State Route 133 (SR-133), also known as Laguna Canyon Road, in the City of Laguna Beach (City). The proposed project is divided into two segments (north and south), defined by the intersection of SR-133 and El Toro Road. The southerly segment, from El Toro Road towards the coast, is being proposed by Caltrans to address public safety issues, citing a higher-than-average volume of traffic accidents, including a fatality, in the vicinity of SR-133 and El Toro Road. The northerly segment, from El Toro Road inland, is being proposed as a joint-development between Caltrans and OC Public Works (OCPW) to widen the road to allow for undergrounding of utilities and addition of a bike lane (see Location Map).

The area of Laguna Canyon through which this section of SR-133 runs is adjacent to and east of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and adjacent to and west of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, both of which are owned by the County, managed by OC Parks, and enrolled in the Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The SR-133 project will result in a series of impacts requiring mitigation or other actions, including impacts to both the NCCP/HCP reserve and designated County parkland. Actions to offset the NCCP/HCP impacts are addressed by OCPW through the utilization of Take credits, which is outlined in the OCPW Board of Supervisors (Board) item for the construction project that was approved by the Board on June 2, 2020. Actions to address impacts to County parkland are detailed below.

As depicted in the Location Map, a corner of the County’s Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park lies at the intersection of SR-133 and El Toro Road (Corner Parcel), adjacent to a private parcel held by Anneliese’s School (School). The School’s existing driveway will be impacted by the SR-133 project, and Caltrans has proposed to mitigate this impact by constructing a new driveway from El Toro to the School through the County’s Corner Parcel.

As with most County parkland, this Corner Parcel (Parcel PR70T-701.1) is deed restricted for park purposes; it does not, however, contain recreational amenities. Given the location of Corner Parcel PR70T-701.1 bounded by El Toro, SR-133, the School, and the proposed new driveway, the Corner Parcel is not convenient or necessary for park purposes. It, therefore, may be abandoned pursuant to the County Park Abandonment
Law of 1959 (Section 25580, et seq. of the Government Code) and pursuant to Section 2-5-301 “Abandonment” of the County Codified Ordinances. The County is negotiating the terms of consideration for the Corner Parcel with Caltrans, who has offered to purchase the parcel and accept transfer of title. Delegated authority to the Chief Real Estate Officer is being requested to complete the transfer of the property once an agreement has been reached. In addition to consideration for the land value, the County intends to reserve an easement through the Corner Parcel for connection to the trail system within Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, per the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails.

The abandonment process requires the Board to meet twice. The first meeting establishes the intent to abandon the park and sets the date for the second meeting, at least 60 days later, and requires unanimous acceptance by all members. During the 60-day lag time, County staff will comply with all posting and publishing requirements mandated by the code section. Upon returning to the Board for the second meeting, the Board will conduct a public hearing and make its final determination regarding abandonment.

In addition to the County-owned parklands that comprise Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, OC Parks also manages certain open space lands owned by the City pursuant to an Amended and Restated Lease approved by the Board on January 13, 2009 (Lease). The Caltrans project requires slope and drainage easements to be executed across small portions of City property currently included in the Lease. Although the County is not party to those easements, the City has indicated a need to amend the Lease to remove the specific areas impacted by the SR-133 project from the lease footprint. It is requested that the Board delegate authority to the Chief Real Estate Officer to negotiate and execute the document(s) required to reduce the lease footprint required for the Caltrans slope and drainage easements.

OC Parks and CEO Real Estate have scheduled this item for initial Board consideration on June 23, 2020, with the second meeting date anticipated on September 1, 2020.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that the Corner Parcel at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park is not required for County use and approve actions related to park abandonment of the Corner Parcel.

2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary for County staff to approve and execute all real estate instruments to transfer the parcel to a qualifying public entity for reasonable consideration based on the market value for the property’s intended use, subject to compliance with County Regional Riding and Hiking Trail policies and satisfaction of Park Abandonment requirements related thereto.
3. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary to amend the 2009 Amended and Restated Lease for the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park between the County and the City of Laguna Beach to remove parcels required for a Caltrans project along State Route 133, upon approval of County Counsel.

Stacy Blackwood

Attachment: Location Map
DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY:
OC Parks GIS
Albert Lucero

DATA SOURCE: - Geom atics Land Information Systems Division

The County of Orange and OCCR/OC Parks/Survey/GIS/LIS make no representations or warranties regarding the applicability or accuracy of the data from which this map was derived. Neither the County nor OCCR/OC Parks/Survey/GIS/LIS shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of this map.

DATE: May 04, 2020

AT TACHMENT A
Page 1 of 1