



AGENDA & MINUTES

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY



Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:00 p.m. *Virtual Meeting*

Mary Feграus, Chair

Park Neighbors, Non-voting Members

Tiffany Ackley

City of Aliso Viejo, Council Member

Farrah N. Khan

City of Irvine, Council Member

Vacant, City of Laguna Hills

Ron Rivera, Parks/Recreation Director, Alternate

City of Laguna Niguel

Grace Leung, City Manager

City of Newport Beach

Scott Smith, Deputy Director, Public Works

City of Irvine, Alternate

Vacant, City of Aliso Viejo, Alternate

Dennis Chiotti, **Casey Gnad** Alternate, City of Irvine

Sean Levin, Deputy Director, Recreation/Sr. Services

Alternate, City of Newport Beach

Staff:

Justin Schmillen Recreation Manager, Newport Beach

Derek Breaux – Recreation Supervisor, Newport Beach

Voting Members

Mary Feграus, Chair

Environmental Groups

Cynthia Conners, Vice Chair

City of Laguna Woods, Council Member

Toni Iseman

City of Laguna Beach, Council Member

Lisa A. Bartlett

Board of Supervisors, 5th District

Tom Maloney

Member at Large

Kate Clark, Alternate

Environmental Groups

Ed H. Tao, Alternate

City of Laguna Woods, Council Member

George Weiss, Alternate

City of Laguna Beach

Sergio Prince, Alternate

Board of Supervisors, 5th District

Gene Felder, Alternate

Member at Large

Please Note Cover Page with additional information regarding meeting participation.

Those persons addressing the Authority are requested to give their names for the record. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following agenda. However, items may be taken up in a different sequence. Written materials must be received 24 hours in advance to ensure consideration by the Authority. A limited number of staff reports are available at the Authority meeting. The public may address the Authority on items of public interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Authority during the public participation section of the meeting.

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, the Coastal Greenbelt Authority 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/Event Code 177 383 2571 or online at the link below

<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e00bcb0c8fba993d9dc72189a505a9022> Password

#PARKS#

Any member of the public wishing to speak should submit the following information no later than noon the day of the meeting Michael.DeSio@ocparks.com or 949-923-2235:

1. The email subject line or voicemail must state the following: Request to Provide Public Comment at Coastal Greenbelt Authority Meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.
2. Name of Person Requesting to Speak
3. Organization Represented or City of Residence
4. **Phone Number/ Screen name that will be used to access 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 949-923-2235 or Michael.DeSio@ocparks.com by 3pm on the Friday preceding the meeting. Please provide your name and contact phone number or email.

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are welcome to address the Authority on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Authority and are not listed as an agenda item. *None*

3. MINUTES

Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2021. Corrections/Additions

Recommended Action: Approve meeting January 13, 2021 minutes or modifications as appropriate. *On a motion by Conners, with a second by Maloney, the January 13, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as stated.*

4. CGA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- A. Laguna Canyon Foundation Update by a LCF representative. *Hallie Jones, ED shared the following: LCF received a million-dollar gift from Tricia and Michael Berns – gift terms included naming rights which were approved by the city for the LCF Wilderness Center area and for future maintenance and operations. LCF also has a signed 1-year contract with the City of Laguna Beach to provide baseline monitoring for four parcels purchased by the city with CA Prop 12 funds, also a contract to provide Trail Ambassadors at key park entrances from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Planted over 14,000 plants as part of restoration activities.*
- B. Natural Communities Coalition Update by a NCC representative. *Darin Loughrey, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator shared: working on metrics to measure health of the Reserve; native seed project collaboration with OC Parks, Matt Majors with the new NCC staff Mendel Stewart; re-introduction of cattle grazing at Weir Canyon to assist with wildfire protection; next NCC newsletter March 31 – encouraged everyone to sign up for the informative newsletter.*
- C. Update by City of Laguna Beach regarding open space in Laguna Beach. *Councilmember Iseman noted that the State is requiring updates to Laguna Beach Housing Element which could impact the density in Laguna Canyon adjacent to the wilderness areas.*
- D. Update regarding the City of Irvine's Open Space Preserve. *Not at this time.*
- E. Update on the City of Newport Beach's Open Space. *Justin Schmillen shared: maintenance and restoration continues with the Buck Canyon and Big Canyon projects by Public Works; setting a legal precedent with a Buck Gully decision.*
- F. Update regarding Open Space from Aliso Viejo. *Not at this time.*

- G. Update regarding Open Space from Laguna Niguel. *Ron Rivera shared: new trails brochure and that it is posted on the city's website; new trail signs coming; Strategic Plan underway for an inventory of the open space in Laguna Niguel; soft opening soon of the new Community Center.*

5. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

- A. Park Operations – All Departments Update – *John Gannaway reminded the CGA and public that Nature Centers are closed now but may open if Orange County is in the Orange Tier regarding COVID.*
- B. Spotlight on Laguna Coast Wilderness and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks: Park staff will highlight recent accomplishments, activities and upcoming events.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Update: *Matt Stegner, Supervising Park Ranger shared the following: the Pacific Pocket Mouse area has been enlarged with new fencing boundaries, mice have been seen recently on the cameras; new access information signage have been installed at 22 locations; Resource Specialist Laura Cohen's Martin Luther King virtual event was highlighted in Stu News; the Spade Foot Toad project is in year two with habitat restoration activities; noted that number of visitors has increased dramatically; introduced new park ranger Megan Matchett, who is currently assigned to Mason Regional Park.*

Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Update: *Supervising Park Ranger Brad Barker shared the following: park user attendance very high – three times normal attendance, question of overuse of the trails; Visitor Center and interpretative exhibits are complete, but the center isn't open to the public due to COVID restrictions; SOCWA replacing pipes along Aliso Creek Trail resulting in trail closures and biology and archeological monitoring.*

6. RECEIVE AND FILE MATTERS

- A. Report by Clark/Fegraus on Irvine Wildlife Corridor – Update on activities. *Kate Clark shared the following: using virtual meetings met with Mayor Khan and Irvine staff, Science Advisors; Wildlife Corridor presentations for the Laguna Greenbelt Inc. Annual meeting, Laguna Canyon Conservancy meeting, Newport Bay Conservancy meeting.*
Recommended Action: Receive and File

- B. Update Caltrans Laguna Canyon Road Project. *Eric Hull, OC Parks noted no direct communication between CALTRANS and OC Parks about the projects.*
Recommended Action: Receive and File

Motion to Receive and File Agenda Items 6. A and B *On a motion by Maloney with a second by Conners, to Receive and File Agenda Items 6. A and B, were unanimously approved.*

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Update on Proposed Pilot Project for Trail Use Designations. *Pam Passow, OC Parks noted that the OC Parks Commission approved moving forward with the pilot project – communications with the public will start in May and project in June. Dr. Chris Monz and team from Utah State will help with monitoring efforts, they are willing to train Laguna Canyon Foundation volunteers once Orange County is in the correct health tier. The Utah State team will prepare a project report by December 31, 2021.*

Recommended Action: Tentatively: Support Letter regarding implementation of Project On a motion by Feграus with a second by Maloney, it was unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Orange County Fifth District Supervisor noting our support and concerns about the pilot project.

8. CGA MEMBERS COMMENTS AND REPORT

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

- *Maloney shared the passing of one of the original park rangers, Richard Dyer. Ranger Dyer served for 20 years.*
- *Felder commented on the “crimes and misuse” issues at Alta Laguna Park adjacent to the wilderness park, shared the PowerPoint illustrating these issues. Also expressed concern about e-bikes as a fire hazard. Asked that these issues be included in a future CGA meeting to approve letters of support for the City of Laguna Beach’s new program and how OC Parks will work with the city.*

9. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT to May 12, 2021 at 3 P.M. Location to be Determined. *On a motion by Conners with a second by Maloney and unanimously approved, the Coastal Greenbelt Authority meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. to May 12, 2021 with the meeting location to be determined.*