

MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus and Members Tao, Maloney, Clark, Prince and Felder were present. Members Iseman/Weiss, Conners and Bartlett were absent.

Non-Voting Members Ron Rivera/Laguna Niguel, Joe Dillman/Irvine were present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are welcome to address the Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Authority and are not listed as an agenda item.

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

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

A. Approve Authority Minutes for September 8, 2021.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Chair Fegraus

Unanimous as stated.

Items VI.A, VI.D, VI.B, VI.C, V.A, and V.B (in that order) were heard before Item IV.A.

IV. CGA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Hallie Jones, Executive Director, shared: \$1 million gift from Tricia and Michael Berns — recognition sign in place; 19 active restoration projects, student education program possibly in early 2022; gradual resuming of volunteers programs — hikes and stewardship projects, training for docents, helped with Ranger Academy; regarding staff — Josie Bennett is leaving, Alan Kaufmann is Interim Restoration Director, staff 60/40 split between home and office. Question of how best to communicate with LCF during business hours.

B. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared: the 75-year permit for the land within the Nature Reserve of Orange County includes 39 target species. Currently a Cactus Wren survey in multiple counties.

C. CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

D. CITY OF IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Joe Dillman, Fleet Services Superintendent, noted the following: Study of impacts of increased trail use; \$1 million grant for fire prevention fuel modification and restoration efforts in Bommer Canyon; currently there is a multi-agency discussion group from Orange County cities, Orange County Fire Authority, and The Irvine Ranch Conservancy regarding the Quarterly Emerging Tree Pest issue.

E. CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

F. ALISO VIEJO OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

G. LAGUNA NIGUEL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Ron Rivera, City of Laguna Niguel Parks and Recreation Director, shared the following: Needs Assessment completed; survey of community and open space inventory in January 2022; OC Sheriff volunteers are helping with hiker education on the weekends as part of the Pilot Program on Education and Enforcement.

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS

John Gannaway, OC Parks Division Manager, shared the following: currently 8 in the Park Ranger Academy — first the training, then work with Park Rangers, and then a Probationary Period before final Ranger status; Expansion of Mile Square Park by 83 acres; upcoming OC Parks events — Candlelight Walk at Heritage Hill Historical Park on December 10, 11, 12, Holiday Lights at Heritage Hill Historical Park on December 17, 18, 19, and Christmas at the Zoo at the OC Zoo on December 11.

B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARKS SPOTLIGHT

Park staff will highlight recent accomplishments, activities and upcoming events

1. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (LCWP) Update

Matt Stegner, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger, shared the following: Restoration on Laguna Ridge Trail — thanks to LCF for assisting; LCF Trail Day started; Laura Cohen, Resources Specialist will restart interpretive programs; looking at the science determinations for the new site for the Pacific Pocket Mouse; Tene Greene has joined LCWP staff as their new Office Technician.

2. Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park (AWCWP) Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Ranger, shared the following: welcome to a new ranger who will be shared with other wilderness parks; recent plant reduction around the Visitor Center; outside contractor has done major trail work on Valido Trail including adding steps in certain areas; appreciation to LCF for the restoration work they do regularly.

Combined motion to receive and file Sections IV and V of the Agenda.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Items A–D)

A. PRESENTATION BY LCF ON THE PECTEN REEF HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AND OTHER RESTORATION PROJECTS WITHIN LCWP AND AWCWP

Paula Olson, LCF Senior Director of Programs, and Hallie Jones, Executive Director, shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Pecten Reef restoration and enhancement project funded by the California Coastal Conservancy, \$677,440. This project is part of a multi-agency restoration effort of the Aliso Creek watershed. Accomplishments of the Pecten Reef project included creating native habitat and increasing biodiversity, improving ecosystems services and functions, protecting sensitive paleontological resources, increasing community knowledge about Aliso Creek, collecting scientific data on the presence/absence of sensitive wildlife, and developing and strengthening key partnerships to facilitate collaborative planning and management. Aliso Creek has the largest population in Orange County of Western Pond Turtles. Also noted the return some of the Federally Protected Least Bell's Vireo. Slides included Before and After restoration of Habitat.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

B. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR REPORT — UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Report by Chair Fegraus: Science Advisor Seminars will continue in 2022, Wildlife Corridor Team working with the City of Irvine on Partner Charter document.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Tao

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

C. CALTRANS LAGUNA CANYON ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Eric Hull, OC Parks Entitlement Manager, informed the Authority that there has been no contact from Caltrans in months and that Caltrans may be in the midst of the regulatory review process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to Receive and File.

D. TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS PILOT PROJECT IN LCWP AND AWCWP UPDATE

Pam Passow, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided the following information: Utah State University on site twice; there will be an update on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project at the upcoming Trails Subcommittee Meeting on December 1; Trails Subcommittee meeting in first quarter 2022 will review an analysis of the results — will be presented to CGA, Trails Subcommittee, and OC Parks Commission.

Michael T., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: County needs to look at more than data, must also consider anecdotal evidence; data must be taken with a grain of salt; and wanted to look at the sampling used for the project; aggressive behavior by mt. bikers are

deterring visitors who want to observe the habitat and wildlife with a peaceful walk or rides.

Rick H., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: hasn't liked this trail use change process; data should have more public review; trails are dangerous because park rules regarding 10 mph speed limits on trails are not enforced as mountain bikers are going much faster on trails; many injuries.

Armando N., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: there are trails with blind spots where mountain bikers nearly hit other users; desired enforcement of trail speed limits; and presented a video showing mountain bikers hitting hikers on trails.

Chan H., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: a friend was hit by a mountain biker on a trail; desires enforcement of speed limits on trails; desires mountain bikers to have bicycle bells.

Maria S., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: stories of hikers being hit by mountain bikers will continue; abusive language by Mt. Biker's; equestrian trails have declined in quality due to mountain bikers; was hit by mountain biker as hiker on a single track trail.

Cary B., via letter read by Ruth G., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: mountain bikers are speeding on trails and desires trail rule enforcement; more aggressive Mt. Bike behavior since Pilot Project; has suffered injuries from aggressive biking behavior; need to work with the biking community.

Ruth G., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: there are a lot of issues with mountain bikers not following park or trail rules.

Dawn C., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: a death is going to happen if rules are not enforced; more frequent encounters; don't implement this pilot project as it doesn't solve the problem..

Mark G., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: 10 mile per hour speed limit will not work for mountain bikers and suggested segregating mountain bikers from other users either at certain times or places.

Peggy K., a member of the public and trail and park user, commented: she was hit by mountain biker and asked why Dave Hanson is OC Parks Commissioner when he has a bicycle company.

Comments from CGA members: Pilot Project is not solving the problem, need to end the project and revert to the original trail uses; these are

wilderness parks and preservation of the habitat is its primary function; agreed that CGA should discuss possible solutions and gather input from the public at future meetings.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Deputy Director, responded to CGA Member comments with the following information: starting December 1, 2021, the trail use modification phase of the project will end and trails modified during the Pilot Project will return to their previous use designations. The project is currently in the review process and being evaluated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

As needed, provide updates to park landowners of comments by the public and Coastal Greenbelt Authority members. Continue to next meeting.

Continue to next meeting with Members sharing this information with the agencies and organizations they represent

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Clark

Unanimous vote to continue this matter to next meeting.

VII. AUTHORITY MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Authority 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.

Member comments included: Question of fencing at the Carolyn Wood Knoll. Information and comments about graffiti at the Alta Laguna site under the jurisdiction of the Laguna Beach County Water District, City of Laguna Beach, and OC Park. Discussion of possible agenda items for the January 2022 CGA meeting. Items include: Review and update of Bylaws, Pilot Trail Use Project, and discussion and public comments on how to best preserve the habitat in wilderness parks in the face of the current overuse of the trails.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT 4:58 p.m.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Tao

Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Laguna Woods City Hall.