

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Clark, Maloney, Osborne, Felder, and Horne were present. Members Foley, Orgill, Conners, Litschi, and Weiss were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) 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 THE MAY 10, 2023 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to approve

Chair Fegraus, on behalf of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority members, thanked OC Parks for the historically informative and interesting May meeting tour of the Woods End Area of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

Chair Fegraus requested approval from the members to change the order of today's agenda to hearing Agenda Item VI. C. before Agenda Item IV. The members agreed unanimously to do so.

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Jacky Cordero, LCF Deputy Director, shared the following: LCF is in the process of hiring a project manager with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2023. They will focus on the Aliso Creek projects; LCF closed out FY 22–23 books and completed the budget for FY 23–24. LCF board votes on this budget on July 20th; WCB (Wildlife Conservation Board) approved an extension to LCF's current WCB Aliso Creek project. The project was extended 18–24 months with additional funding of \$192,000; LCF Annual Gala is set for Friday, October 6th; LCF recently partnered with Suzi Chauvel and secured \$200,000 annual funding to extend the Title I

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South Coast Wilderness Education Program from Grades 2–5 into middle school, high school, and college internship programs. During the 22–23 school year LCF served 2,500 kids on 50 school field trips. The first year coming back from the pandemic; LCF is partnering with Orange County Community Foundation and 7 other local environmental nonprofits (Crystal Cove Conservancy, Banning Ranch, Laguna Ocean Foundation, etc.) on the annual Protect & Preserve Campaign. The Giving Day is set for Wednesday, August 6th; During LCF's FY 22–23, LCF onboarded two new board members (Adele Heuer and Michelle Kremer). Michelle was voted in last month as Board President. LCF is actively working on recruiting a third board member for FY 23–24.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, NCC Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following: Darin Loughrey and Authority Member Felder were part of the recent Weir Canyon tour hosted by NCC that explained the upcoming cattle grazing project that will help with the restoration of 6,000 acres. Also noted were the cactus wren survey that is done every 5 years will start soon; NCC recently met with scientists and park staff to help develop consistent trail conditions and evaluation.

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

E. 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

Jeff Kirby, City of Laguna Niguel Recreation Supervisor, thanked OC Parks and OC Park Rangers for their help in facilitating a safe and successful July 4th fireworks show at Laguna Niguel Regional Park.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

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Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Ev Mena, OC Parks Interim Parks Division Manager, shared the following: OC Parks is hiring 6 new park rangers with the onboarding in process for various facilities; 7 more candidates will start the training process in late July; also interviews for the Resource Specialists will start in late July; Pam Passow has been appointed OC Parks Director; Mike Wilson is the Interim OC Parks Director of Operations. Also, a Park Ranger 2 will soon be transferred to LCWP.

B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK (LCWP) AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK (AWCWP) SPOTLIGHT

1. LCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: many thanks to Barbara Norton, OC Parks for organizing the much-appreciated Woods End tour 2022-2023 Rainfall to date 25.6 inches necessitating many repairs to trails and multi-purpose roads; 50 Pacific Pocket mice will be released in May, this is a San Diego Museum project; recent hiring of a new maintenance 1 staff for LCWP; Nix Nature Center still has reduced hours due to lack of staffing, Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks Reserves are helping to make up for lack of staff.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: the Aliso Creek East project is completed; Soka University installed a fiberoptic cable in the creek but without any damage to the creek; AWCWP is short a maintenance staff member and office technician. The multi-purpose road grading has not been done yet by OCFA but will start soon along with OC Parks heavy equipment; Laguna Canyon Foundation has help tremendously with trail clearing/repairs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Maloney

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B

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VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–E)

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

Staff will provide an update on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project that occurred within LCWP and AWCWP.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Interim Deputy Director of Operations, noted that the addendum with the drone footage has not been received yet. Once OC Parks receives the Addendum it will be shared with Authority Members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

B. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

City of Laguna Beach Staff, if available, will share an update on its Laguna Canyon Road Improvement Project following a report presented at the November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting and further planning.

Mark Trestik, City of Laguna Beach City Engineer, noted no update at this time, but within the next 12 months there will be public workshops regarding the design.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

C. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD WIDENING AND SAFETY PROJECT UPDATE

OC Parks or Caltrans Staff will share an update on Caltrans' Laguna Canyon Road Widening and Safety Project.

This Agenda Item was heard before Agenda Item IV.

Carmen Lo, CALTRANS Associate Environmental Planner District 12, coordinated the presentation. CALTRANS Staff and Consultants comprised the team for the presentation and shared the following: Construction started in December 2022; Components of the project include: Component 1 – Channel restoration, Concrete Check Dam; Component 2 – Standard length for merge lane, Reconfigure left-turn lane from El Toro; Component 3 – Shoulder widening for Class II Bike Lanes and Undergrounding of Utilities; The combined 133 and El Toro Road projects are under CALTRANS and County of Orange. Tentatively scheduled for

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completion by September 2025; Work activities are restricted during peak morning and afternoon traffic times, much of the work is done during the night behind the K-Rails; Project benefits include: drainage improvements, safety improvements, visual improvements, and bike lanes; Each component of the project was explained by the Team; Immediate questions by the Coastal Greenbelt Authority members were: Has the historic well site on the Anneliese property been protected? CALTRANS indicated that the well cap was still there. Will the Retaining basin/check dam next to the 73 off-ramp remain on that side of Laguna Canyon Road? CALTRANS said yes;

The public had a number of questions or clarifications – Toni Iseman, Penny Milne, Johanna Felder, Laura Cohen, Gayle Waite: many expressed concern about the corner parcel with the new driveway for entering and exiting Anneliese school property. Specifically, who will manage the property, maintain the habitat and wildlife protection, will the 6- foot fence lining the new driveway remain? Another key concern of the public and CGA members was the merge lane that starts going south at the Laguna Canyon Road/El Toro Road intersection. Will the merge lane end at a safe distance from the Willow Canyon Park gate to allow entering and exiting vehicles to safely get to the middle lane needed without crossing the merge lane?

The public and Coastal Greenbelt Authority members appreciated the CALTRANS presentation and explanations. CALTRANS noted they would further respond to questions in a few weeks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

D. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

Receive information about the Science Advisors Series, Partner Charter, and other activities.

Member Clark shared recent recognition of the Irvine Laguna Wildlife Corridor by the Los Angeles Regional 30x30 planning group (Power in Nature) for Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. Our corridor was identified as the #1 project to address the problem of climate resiliency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

E. HABITAT SUSTAINABILITY AND LCWP TRAIL MAP REVIEW

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Further review of LCWP Trail map and new trails implemented since the approval of the LCWP General Development Plan.

Barbara Norton, OC Parks Operations Manager, thanked the OC Parks staff for their assistance with the Woods End tour and all that they do for LCWP and AWCWP. She noted there are a number of trails and areas not included in the LCWP General Development and Resources Management Plans. These include: Old Emeralds Falls – new location; Woods End; Ridgetop Trail; Blackjack Trail; Morro Sliver – acreage not included – extended Bommer Ridge connection from Dartmoor to Emerald Canyon; Lizard Trail in 2016; Mary’s Trail; and area east of Laguna Canyon Road off Fire Road.

Authority Members discussed opportunities for another tour – Barbara Norton will determine the best time. Chair Fegraus asked about the timing for the next OC Parks budget. Any suggestions for document amendments would most likely be in the 2025 OC Parks Budget. Authority Members talked about reviewing the GDP and RMP documents. Authority Members will review sections of the documents using the OC Parks website link and share their questions about possible document updates beyond the new trails and areas with the Authority Members at the next Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Continue item to consider opportunities for next tour of new trails, also other sections of the GDP which require updating.

Motion to Receive and File Agenda Items VI. A–E: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items VI. A–E.

VII. AUTHORITY COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Authority Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Members may also suggest items for the July 12, 2023 meeting agenda.

Chair Fegraus reminded everyone of the LCWP Hike with Supervisor Foley on Wednesday, July 26 from 9 to 10 a.m. Meet at the Nix Nature Center to hike on Mary’s Trail to Barbara’s Lake.

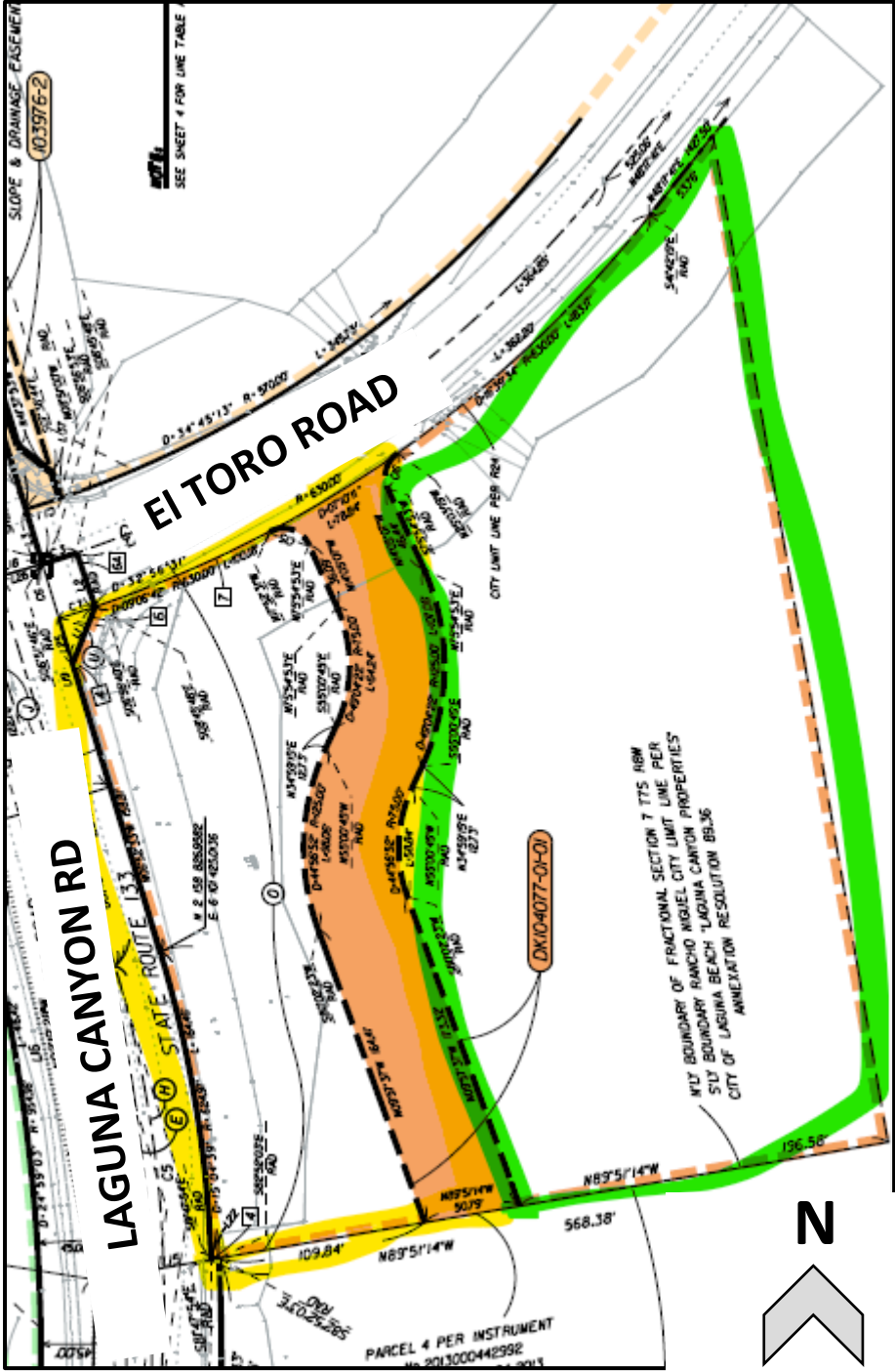
VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Map of El Toro Road and Laguna Canyon Road Parcels



- Property Owned by Caltrans -
- Property Owned by Anneliese Schools -
- Property Owned by the County of Orange -