

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Chair Fegraus noted that Member Maloney would like to retire as Member-At-Large appointed by the Fifth District Supervisor but will try to remain until the position is filled.

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 JULY 12, 2023 MEETING.

*Motion: Vice Chair McCary
2nd: Member Osborne
Unanimous vote to approve*

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Jacky Cordero, LCF Interim Executive Director, shared the following: submitted a bid for the City of Laguna Beach Full-Service fuel mod management contract; LCF was the only bidder, and the contract will be awarded on December 12th at the City Council meeting; continue to work on scoping out our next big restoration project, working with OC Parks, WCB, TNC, IRC, etc. on potential sites along Laguna Canyon Road (Parcel 5) and Aliso Creek; will send out End of Year annual appeal on November 11th to arrive at homes on Giving Tuesday; submitted application grants to Rivian (\$200,000) and Warne (\$40,000); opened recruitment for a Project Manager and started receiving applications; continue potential partnership with LCAD; LCAD submitted a Letter of Intent to LCF, which will be reviewed with the Executive Committee next week; a few considerations before entering into this commitment of the Wildlife Corridor Study adjacent to the

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LCAD development include Scope of Work must follow the framework set by NCC, Laguna Greenbelt and wildlife agencies, data from the study needs to complement wildlife work already existing in the area, and secure grant funding before work can begin; LCAD should help with funding; LCF Executive Director search is going well and should have someone in place in December; Interim Executive Director Jacky Cordero has accepted a position with the City of Avalon as their Public Works Director and will stay until end of the year and start her new position in the beginning of 2024.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Marc Wiener, City of Laguna Beach Community Development Director share the following: the City of Laguna Beach is preparing to start the updates to the Open Space and Conservation General Plan Elements; these documents have not been substantially updated since their 1980s creation; working with community members now to review the documents, will seek consultants for the biological studies initially and then other studies as required by the planning firm coordinating the updates, at least a year process. Member Orgill added that he wants to expedite the process. Comment from the public about including updated watercourse mapping.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time. Member Orgill noted that the November 21, 2023 agenda City of Laguna Beach City Council agenda will include an item to approve the city staff to review the pros and cons of the city enrolling their open space land in the Nature Reserve of Orange County program.

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, shared the City's new Day Hike Checklist.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

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

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Interim Deputy Director of Operations, shared the following: Park Ranger I recruitment started October 19 to fill 8 Park Ranger staff vacancies; there is an approximate 15% vacancy rate at this time; announcement of James Dinwiddie as the new Deputy Director; Laguna Coast Wilderness Park has a new Resource Specialist – Shelbi Richardson; a new Park Maintenance Supervisor I position at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park has been filled.

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: new Resource Specialist Shelbi Richardson started at the Nix Nature Center on October 20th; at the initiation of LCWP staff, the new City of Laguna Beach Park Rangers met and discussed their roles and responsibilities and how they can work together; park staff are preparing for rain; staff have attended the Mountain Lion Training conducted by Dr. Winston Vickers, DVM, MPVM, from UC Davis to better understand general information, policies for reporting sightings, and coordination with other wilderness parks.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: Welcome to Marcelo Lopez, new Maintenance Supervisor I position and starting November 17th to new Maintenance Worker I position, Jose Flores, which will complete the Maintenance Department staffing; AWCWP has a new Monument Sign at the Alicia Parkway entrance; AWCWP staff also met with City of Laguna Beach Park Rangers and have a goal of doing joint fire training; volunteers are important and their help is appreciated – 3 on the weekends, 1 daily, and also 2 Ranger Reserves on Fridays.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

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

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, provided the following update: A Staff Report on the Trails Pilot Project, Addendum Report was provided by Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Interim Planning & Design Division Manager, to the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee and Authority Members; the Addendum Report from Utah State University contained drone imaging results from pre and post use of trails during the Pilot Project; images measured depth (erosion), width (decrease in vegetation on the sides of the trails); results indicated that changing trail use designations can contribute to increases in trail width and depth; in conclusion of the Report the findings of the Technical Report and Addendum suggests that trail designation strategies can effectively address conflict and concern about visitor safety, while emphasizing the need to evaluate ecological conditions when making changes to trail use; and this concludes the Report and the Pilot Project, and no changes are anticipated to any of the trails under study.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Receive and File.
2. If appropriate, authorize the Chair to prepare a comment letter regarding the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project for issuance to OC Parks and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to Receive and File and to discontinue this item on future Authority agendas

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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.

Michael Litschi, City of Laguna Beach Director of Transit and Community Services, was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report which Member Orgill: City of Laguna Beach consultant is working on utility coordination and mapping; consultant has also obtained the necessary encroachment permit to perform further site investigations necessary for design; public outreach is expected to commence in early 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File and Continue the Item.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to Receive and File and Continue the Item

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.

Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Interim Planning & Design Division Manager, shared the following: Fencing along the new driveway off El Toro Road is under Anneliese's School control; OC Parks continues to be involved in weekly meetings with CALTRANS.

Concern about new fencing along Laguna Canyon Road. Question by Member Osborne about safety regarding approach to the k-rails – a flashing light indicating k-rails ahead would be helpful. Question by Chair Fegraus as to who owns and will maintain the property between the driveway and Laguna Canyon Road? CALTRANS owns the property and must maintain it.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File and Continue the Item.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File and Continue the Item

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D. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

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

Member Clark shared the following: Campaign to raise public awareness using the P22 campaign model; Bynx campaign includes t-shirts, educational materials, diorama kit, new brochure, social media, and tabling at events; and encouraging cities to sign the Partner Charter.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to Receive and File and Continue the Item

E. HABITAT SUSTAINABILITY AND LCWP TRAIL MAP REVIEW

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

Chair Fegraus distributed a summary of Authority agenda items concerning the 1998 General Development Plan (GDP) and Resources Management Plan (RMP). Also included in the Distribution to Members and Staff was an initial list of GDP/RMP Updates for the proposed Addendum. Discussion among Authority Members and OC Parks Staff of the process/budget and scope of work for the Addendum.

Next steps include: Work with OC Parks staff for a date for the next park tour to see more new trails and change of trail use. At January 10, 2024 Authority meeting, review and send a letter to OC Parks asking for budget consideration for preparing the Addendum. Also, at the January meeting Authority Members will start to add their findings to the list for inclusion in the Addendum. Further clarification of items for the Addendum will continue at future Authority meetings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

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

First Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to work with OC Parks staff for a suggested March 13, 2024 tour of new trails and trails with change of use.

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Second Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to review and, if approved at the January 10, 2024 Authority meeting, to send a letter to OC Parks asking for budget considerations for preparing an Addendum to the GDP/RMP; at that meeting continue to add findings to the list for inclusion in the Addendum; and further clarifications of items for the Addendum will continue at future Authority meetings. This item is to be continued.

F. LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN STUDENT CENTER DEVELOPMENT

City of Laguna Beach Staff, if available, will provide a report of the proposed developments at the Laguna College of Art and Design Student Center and any possible impacts to AWCWP.

Marc Wiener, City of Laguna Beach Community Development Director, summarized the Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD) Student Center development plan and approvals including the Appeal. He noted the changes made through meetings with LCF, CANDO, and other concerned organizations/agencies resulting in modifications to the landscape plans, patio placement, and lighting near the wildlife corridor area. Chair Fegraus noted that in the future OC Parks and the Authority will be included in Public Notices for any development along Laguna Canyon Road that borders the City of Laguna Beach's open space.

Lisa Dallendorfer, LCAD Trustee and Pro Bono Project Manager, reviewed the modifications to the landscape plans and lighting. Also expressed appreciation to LCF, OC Parks, and CANDO for their helpful review and looks forward to involving the students to develop their awareness more of the open space.

Jacky Cordero, Interim Executive Director of LCF, related their meetings with LCAD. LCF's interest is the wildlife corridor adjacent to the LCAD development. Camera studies of the wildlife corridor would be helpful and could involve LCAD students. LCAD is preparing a Letter of Interest for the LCF's Executive Committee to consider.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Receive and File and Continue the Item, if appropriate.
2. Authorize an Authority Member to draft a comment letter to the City of Laguna Beach regarding the proposed development of the Laguna College of Art and Design Student Center.

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Motion: Member Orgill
2nd: Vice Chair McCary
Unanimous vote to Receive and File. This concludes this Item.

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.

Authority Members noted that the correction of zoning of the parcels acquired with Prop 12 funds is scheduled for final approval by the California Coastal Commission. Reminder that the next Wellness Walk with Supervisor Foley at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park is December 13th. Request for 2024 calendar of Authority meetings – OC Parks staff will prepare. Appreciation to the City of Laguna Woods for hosting the Authority meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO JANUARY 10, 2024

Motion: Vice Chair McCary
2nd: Member Orgill
Unanimous vote to adjourn