

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 — 3:00 p.m.

*Before formally starting the meeting, Chair Fegraus announced the passing of Dr. Elisabeth Brown on July 6, 2024. Dr. Brown was a member of Laguna Laurel Advisory Group that led to the purchase of the Laguna Laurel parcels for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The Authority was created by that purchase agreement.*

*Dr. Brown served as an Authority member from 1991 to 2011, with many years serving as Chair. She represented the Laguna Canyon Conservancy, Laguna Greenbelt, Village Laguna, and CANDO – Laguna Canyon residents. Dr. Brown was a member of Laguna Greenbelt since 1982 and served as president from 1985 to 2020. This meeting is dedicated to Dr. Brown and her commitment to preserving open space.*

## **I. ROLL CALL**

*Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Orgill, Clark, Horne, Osborne, and Felder were present. Members Foley, Conners, Weiss, and Litschi 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 8, 2024 MEETING.**

*Motion to approve the Authority Minutes for the May 8, 2024 Meeting:  
Vice Chair McCary  
2nd: Member Osborne  
Unanimous vote to approve*

## **IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

### **A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE**

*Representative not available to provide an update at this time.*

### **B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE**

*Member Orgill noted that the city's Open Space and Conservation Element is being updated.*

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## **C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE**

*Darin Loughery, NCC Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following: The Natural Communities Coalition (NCC) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have been working together on a two-year study of an invasive lizard, known as the Sonoran spotted whiptail. The purpose of the collaborative effort is to establish whether the invasive Sonoran spotted whiptail is a true threat to the native orange-throated whiptail and other native species on habitat protected wildlands in Orange County.*

*The orange-throated whiptail is a lizard which is native to coastal sage scrub habitat and is one of three primary species that drove the development of the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) in southern California, along with the California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren. These three species together are referred to as NCCP/HCP target species, and when detected in the wild, serve as indicators of healthy coastal sage scrub habitat.*

*The Sonoran spotted whiptail looks very similar to the orange-throated whiptail, but is a parthenogenetic species, which means there are no males in the population and every individual is a female that can produce fertile eggs without mating. This allows for faster population expansion of the invasive species than the normal reproductive rates of the native species. In addition, the Sonoran spotted whiptail is about 20 percent larger than the orange-throated whiptail and has a maximum clutch size of seven eggs versus three eggs for the orange-throated whiptail.*

*As the population of Sonoran spotted whiptails in Orange County is expected to grow over the next year, scientists will be assessing if the species are successfully entering the wildland urban interface and actively occupying the habitat of orange-throated whiptails or other species in the Reserve.*

## **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.*

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### **G. LAGUNA NIGUEL OPEN SPACE UPDATE**

*Jeff Kirby, City of Laguna Niguel Recreation Supervisor, noted that there will a kick-off in September for their Trail and Education Program.*

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

*Motion: Vice Chair McCary*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: Member Orgill*

*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 Parks Division Manager, introduced Antonio Valdes who has joined OC Parks as Trails and Mapping Administrator. Antonio’s responsibilities will include managing planning documents, coordinating with contractors, and overseeing trail work and drone coverage.*

#### **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: The 4<sup>th</sup> of July went well with no incidents; recent tour by the NCC Board of Directors of LCWP and then Crystal Cove State Park; the Red Cross recently recognized Derrick Ankerstar, Megan Matchett and Kevin Estrada for the First Responder Hero Awards.*

*Member Felder asked about the number of road kills and if LCWP wildlife population is decreasing, increasing, or holding steady.*

##### **2. AWCWP Update**

*Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: July 4<sup>th</sup> went well with no incidents; working with county resources to identify restoration projects; Laguna Beach Fire Department and OC Parks Fire Coordinator are working together on training programs.*

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

*Motion: Vice Chair McCary*

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*2nd: Member Osborne*

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

## VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–E)

### A. 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.

*Representative not available to provide an update at this time.*

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and file and continue the item.

*Motion: Member Orgill*

*2nd: Vice Chair McCary*

*Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.*

### B. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD WIDENING AND SAFETY PROJECT UPDATE

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

*Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Entitlements Division Manager noted that Southern California Edison is working on the undergrounding section of the project; not much activity with the CALTRANS section.*

#### **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.*

### C. 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.

*Representative not available to provide an update at this time.*

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

*Motion: Member Orgill*

*2nd: Member Osborne*

*Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.*

## **D. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE**

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

*Member Clark shared information about the June 12<sup>th</sup> tour of the Irvine Laguna Wildlife Corridor with attendees from State, County and Federal agencies – the tour was led by a FivePoint representative. Mayor Khan, City of Irvine participated and expressed a desire to establish an educational kiosk adjacent to the corridor to help residents understand the purpose of the wildlife corridor.*

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Receive and file and continue the item.

*Motion: Vice Chair McCary*

*2nd: Chair Fegraus*

*Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.*

## **E. CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS WOODS END WILDERNESS PRESERVE TRAIL DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LETTER OF SUPPORT**

The City of Laguna Woods will present plans for its Woods End Wilderness Preserve Trail Drainage and Improvement Project.

*Chris Macon, City of Laguna Woods City Manager, presented information on the project. Goals included reducing stormwater runoff to El Toro Road without reintroducing paved surfaces, refreshing the existing entry facilities, and enhancing wayfinding from El Toro Road. These goals, along with relocating the pedestrian entrance closer to on-street parking, maintaining a plant palette representative of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, adding bollards at the intersection of El Toro Road and Aliso Creek Road, and adding video surveillance at the frontage are all an improvement for the Woods End entry. Most importantly the proposed project has funding from the CA Proposition 68 with a City general fund matching and from the American Rescue Plan Act.*

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of support on behalf of the Authority to the City of Laguna Woods for its Woods End Wilderness Preserve Trail Drainage and Improvement Project.

*Motion: Chair Fegraus*

*2nd: Vice Chair McCary*

*Unanimous vote to authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of support to the City of Laguna Woods for the Woods End Wilderness Preserve Trail Drainage and Improvement Project.*

### **F. AUTHORITY MEMBER AT LARGE LETTERS OF APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT**

Discussion of the preparation of a letter of appreciation to be sent to the Authority's former Member-at-Large Tom Maloney for his service to the Authority. Discussion of the preparation of a letter to the Orange County Fifth District Supervisor in support of the appointment of Barbara Norton as the Authority's new Member-at-Large.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

1. Authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to former Authority Member Tom Maloney.
2. Authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter to the Orange County Fifth District Supervisor in support of the appointment of Barbara Norton as the Authority's new Member-at-Large.

*Motion: Member Osborne*

*2nd: Chair Fegraus*

*Unanimous vote to authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to former Authority Member Tom Maloney and a letter to the Orange County Fifth District Supervisor in support of the appointment of Barbara Norton as the Authority's new Member-At-Large.*

### **G. HABITAT SUSTAINABILITY AND LCWP TRAIL MAP REVIEW**

Authority Members will refer to and discuss sections of LCWP General Development and Resource Management Plans that require updates or amendments and discuss preparation of an addendum to these plans.

*Member Clark and Chair Fegraus shared visuals of the draft ideas for the Addendum topics. Members were encouraged to review the documents and draft ideas and share with the team working on the draft Addendum — Chair Fegraus, Member Clark, and Barbara Norton.*

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### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

1. Discuss and incorporate information recommended for inclusion in the Addendum to the LCWP General Development Plan.
2. Continue the item.

*Motion: Vice Chair McCary*

*2nd: Member Orgill*

*Unanimous vote to Receive and File and Continue the item and prepare a more detailed Addendum to be presented for review at the next meeting.*

### **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 May 8, 2024 meeting agenda.

*Member Felder commented on the continuing issues with the Southern California Edison actions in the Top of World area and that the Laguna Beach Planning Commission will include the restoration topic at a future meeting. This area is adjacent to the county managed wilderness parks.*

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING 4:34 p.m.**

*Motion: Member Orgill*

*2nd: Member Osborne*

*Unanimous vote to adjourn to the September 11, 2024 Meeting.*