

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Norton, Clark (arrived during Item V.B. 1), and Felder (arrived during Item IV.A) were present. Members Lee, Conners, Orgill, Weiss, Litschi, Foley, and Osborne 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.

Penelope Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented that City of Laguna Beach Councilmember Hallie Jones has been appointed as an Alternate to the Authority. Member Orgill remains as the Authority Member and Michael Litschi as the Second Alternate.

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 JANUARY 8, 2025 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Chair Fegraus

Unanimous vote to approve

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–G)

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Item IV.A was heard after Item IV.D.

Scott Thomas, LCF Executive Director, shared the following: Education Coordinator Taylor McGrath is leaving LCF at the end of the month and will be replaced by Joyce Silva, responsibilities include contacting the Title One schools and coordinating school field trips details with OC Parks Resource Specialists at Aliso & Wood Canyons and Laguna Coast Wilderness Parks. All expenses for the field trips are covered by LCF through grants and donations. To date for the 2024–2025 school year, 78 schools and 2,081 students have participated in the first through fifth grade field trips.

Outreach with the community included: Native Plant Nursery Open House with over 50 people attending the joint OC Parks and LCF event. LCF is partnering with the Susi Q Center to present nature programs: The March program on birds was very successful with 75 attendees. The April 24th program at the Susi Q Center will

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

be on native plants and wildlife. On April 26 LCF will join REI at a table event for Celebrate Trails Day at the REI Laguna Hills store.

LCF provided trail building and maintenance techniques in early February for the OC Parks Ranger Academy attendees.

Trail and Land events are scheduled almost every Saturday (weather permitting) for volunteers. Stewardship days include March 15 for Native Plant Nursery stewardship, also on March 22 restoration projects will be at Laguna Coast and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks. LCF is working with the City of Laguna Beach for restoration and fuel modification along the urban edge. LCF is working with OC Parks on approval for restoration in the Parcel 5 section prior to submitting a Wildlife Conservation Board grant. Submitted a proposal to help with the Pacific Pocket Mouse project.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Casey Gnad, City of Irvine Open Space Administrator, shared the following: review of the city's e-bike program presented at the November Authority meeting – noted appreciation by Authority members; rain has caused some trail closures and monitoring of invasives; Bommer Canyon restoration project in partnership with Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) is in Year 2 with over 9,500 container plants in the ground with a goal of a more resilient less flammable fuel bed. Working with Southern California Edison on the 2019 initiated project of removing the utility poles is complete. At the direction of the City Manager a one-year contract with IRC will provide a feasibility study including an inventory of the habitat, vegetation, hydrology, and wildlife in the area near Veeh Creek to determine if installation of a new trail system is appropriate.

Chair Fegraus asked City of Irvine Councilmember Kathleen Treseder, PhD to speak – she shared the interest of the City of Irvine in preserving the natural lands and also her professional background as the Howard A. Schneiderman Endowed Chair and Professor at University of California Irvine.

E. NEWPORT BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

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 following: tabling events on city trails are staffed every month with March 26th at the Salt Creek Trail. The city will start Community Center Walks in April. Junior Youth Clean-Up events started in Salt Creek with the collection of a lot of trash.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

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

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: The Park Ranger Academy started with 10 trainees and on week 9 all are still engaged and ready to start field training in the next sessions; some restructuring within OC Parks – Ev Mena will represent OC Parks on the Laguna Foundation Board instead of the OC Parks Director and Derrick Ankerstar, OC Parks Operations Manager, will be the OC Parks Alternate for the nonprofit board.

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: Southern California Edison has been in LCWP for 5 weeks working on the utility roads and trails to their utilities — currently in the south end of LCWP, will do the north end later. Shared his recent tour of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor to understand the difficult sections and the areas restored to a wildlife corridor status. Rainfall to date: 6 inches total, last year almost 20 inches.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: Rainfall to date – just under 6 inches. Replanted an area near the 5 Oaks Trail where a bike jump had been made illegally. New ranger assigned to AWCWP for

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday hours. Partnered with OC Sheriff's Department to help address 17 encampments on the Aliso Creek Trail — helped provide resources and relocation for the people, and clean-up of the area. Partnering with the City of Laguna Beach to train Laguna Beach Park Rangers on fire and wildlife protection including good communication lines, understanding jurisdictions. Recent trail work clearing drains. Recently promoted staff — Marcelo Lopez was promoted to Park Maintenance Supervisor II at Laguna Niguel Regional Park, Kerry Lambert was promoted to Park Maintenance Supervisor I at AWCWP. Continuing to work with the community and the Laguna Beach Unified School District reference unauthorized trail issues.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

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

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–F)

A. CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION REGARDING IRVINE BOWL DECIBEL OUTPUT ADJUSTMENTS

The City of Laguna Beach will consider an item regarding a potential regulation of the Irvine Bowl's decibel output at concerts and events outside of the festival period. The Authority will discuss the issue and its potential impacts to LCWP.

There were not any representatives from the City of Laguna Beach, but Chair Fegraus presented the information she had received from the City about the February 20, 2025 meeting of the Irvine Bowl Policy Committee. The current decibel level is 70. City staff report stated the current policy and indicated there would not be any CEQA considerations if the decibel level was raised. The Committee approved raised decibel levels for two concerts, but referred to the City Council to retain a consultant to review the sound level issues before changing the approved level permanently to at least 100 decibels.

Penelope Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented that the sound level at the Irvine Bowl may go up to 110 decibels and that the Irvine Bowl Policy Committee is deadlocked but that aspects of this issue are going to the City of Laguna Beach City Council.

Chair Fegraus asked the Members to approve a letter to the City of Laguna Beach encouraging the hiring of a consultant to review all impacts of an increase in decibel level for off-season venue use and to acknowledge the proximity of natural

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

lands dedicated to wildlife preservation, including the protection of the known coastal California Gnatcatcher nesting area, and a public hiking trail.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Authorize the Chair to prepare and issue a letter to the City of Laguna Beach in support of any appropriate regulations to reduce nuisances that may impact wildlife at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, if appropriate.
2. Receive and file.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to authorize Chair Fegraus to prepare and issue a letter to the City of Laguna Beach.

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 and its potential impacts on LCWP following a report presented at the November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting and further planning.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

C. 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.

Penelope Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented that the project completion date was recently updated.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Norton

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

D. 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.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

E. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

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

Member Clark shared the following: the 2019 Wildlife Corridor Camera Study presented the challenges associated with wildlife passage through the Serrano Creek Tunnel under the Interstate Highway 5. The Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. has contracted with Robert Rock of Rock Design Associates to help with a solution for this challenge. This firm has been part of the successful Annenburg Wildlife Crossing design, funding, and implementation. Rock Design Associates will coordinate a design workshop in June to help with finding solutions for the remaining challenges. With these ideas The Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. will seek funds for further study and implementation of solutions. Proposition 4 is a possible source of funding. Member Clark invited the Authority and the public to join The Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. on a tour of the Annenburg Wildlife Crossing. More cities and HOAs are signing on to the Partner Charter.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

F. REVIEW OF THE 1998 LCWP GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Authority Members reviewing the LCWP General Development and Resource Management Plans will present ideas for an addendum to update the plans. Authority Members will discuss and receive additional comments on additional items of inclusion in the addendum.

Chair Fegraus and Members Clark and Norton shared Draft 6 of the LCWP Addendum. They also noted that the Nix Nature Center Addendum is still in process. Comments were welcomed. OC Parks staff indicated they needed more time to study the documents. It was agreed by Authority Members and OC Parks staff that the July meeting could be held at the Nix Nature Center and focused on the Addendums.

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, answered the Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

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

Motion to receive and file and continue the item: Member Norton

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the 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 May 14, 2025 meeting agenda.

Members agreed that the July 9, 2025 meeting could focus on the Addendums. Public Participation, Consent Calendar, Authority Members, Partners Announcements and Updates, and OC Parks Staff Updates would be heard, but all Discussion Calendar Items could be continued to September from the May meeting if there was not any new information that would require a letter or directive from the Authority.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO MAY 14, 2025 MEETING 4:37 p.m.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the May 14, 2025 Meeting.