

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bui.

II. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Warren, and Commissioners Bui, Diaz (arrived during Item V.A), Hanson, and Jones were present. Chair Shawver and Commissioner Gabbard were absent.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ed Maurer, Sierra Club, provided a comment thanking OC Parks for its hard work on maintaining its lands.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 6, 2025 MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Hanson

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 4-0 (Commissioner Diaz was absent for the vote)

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A-D)

A. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION CONSERVATION GRAZING STUDY PRESENTATION

Natural Communities Coalition staff will present on its Conservation Grazing Study that will take place in select areas within the Irvine Ranch Open Space.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Travis Brooks, Land IQ, presented on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Commissioner Diaz

Approved 5-0

B. OC PARKS SUMMER EVENT PREVIEW

Staff will present a preview of upcoming OC Parks summer events.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting on the item and answered the Commissioner's question.

Kristi Quon, OC Parks Strategic Communications Manager, presented on the item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Commissioner Bui

Approved 5-0

C. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the April 10, 2025 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff providing information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Commissioner Hanson

Approved 5-0

D. ELECTRIC BICYCLE PRESENTATION AND COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT OF EXPLORING POSSIBLE

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ALLOWANCE OF CLASS I ELECTRIC BICYCLE USE ON UNPAVED, NATURAL-SURFACE TRAILS IN OC PARKS FACILITIES

Staff will provide an overview of electric bicycles and their interface with OC Parks and the Commission will consider support of whether OC Parks staff should explore the possibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities and engage with relevant regulatory agencies on this subject.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff providing information on the item, presented the item, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Jennifer Naegele, OC Parks Natural Resources and Trails Manager, presented the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Steve Emter commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as it allows him to get into nature.

Will Skeeters, Bike Industry, commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they allow access to injured and disabled persons.

Matt Ford, Specialized Bicycle Components, Inc., commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they allow people more access to the parks.

Belén Ramirez, Project Bike Love, commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they close fitness gaps and promote health.

Matt Simanski, Orange County Mountain Bike Association, commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they allow more people to go on the trails.

Michael Wellborn, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing safety, courtesy, and other concerns.

Willis Boyd commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing that there is no difference between them and mountain bikes.

Brian Darney commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they have positive effects on riders' health.

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Fred Galante commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing the changing shift in how electric bicycles are seen.

Brian Taylor commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as it enables him to get outdoors despite an injury.

Sean Ramirez commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as it enables him to get outdoors despite an injury.

Mansoor Vakili commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they provide access to nature for certain people.

Margaret Dennis commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing safety concerns for those on the trails.

Mitch Baxter commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as he can access the parks despite injuries.

Jeff Curie commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities claiming that there is no fire risk due to electric bicycles.

Faith Morris commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing the user conflict that arises between those who ride electric bicycles and other users.

Sherri Sisson, Sierra Club, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing safety concerns for other trail users.

John Sisson, Sierra Club, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing safety concerns for other trail users.

Helen Maurer, Sierra Club, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing conservation and enforcement concerns.

Ed Maurer, Sierra Club, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing safety concerns.

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Steven Sheffield, Trabuco Hills Mountain Bike Team, commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they need them for adult leaders to engage youth in mountain biking.

Randee Tolentino commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they give access for people to the trails and they have the same impacts to trails as tradition bikes.

Jim Foley, Orange County Mountain Biking Facebook Group, commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities claiming that there are no trail impacts and no fire risks.

Marcia Garten, Sierra Club, commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities to avoid congestion on trails and in parks and for safety reasons.

Christine Daily commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as they give access to trails and that she does not want to suffer consequences of citations.

Chris Murphy commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing legal framework in support of viewing electric bicycles as bikes.

Bob Kanne commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities as it would limit who could be on trails due to safety issues and also cited enforcement issues.

Joshua Pierce commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing conservation concerns for wilderness areas.

Dylan Price commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing accessibility reasons.

Lisa Lundquist, Sierra Club, commented by asking people to think about the purpose of parks in considering use of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities.

Mercedes Natvig commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing accessibility reasons.

Henry Roten commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing accessibility reasons and that they do not significantly impact trails.

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William Doyle commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities asking for motors and bikes with motors to be kept out of unpaved trails.

Holly Jarvis commented in opposition to electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities citing enforcement issues but suggesting something other than an all or nothing policy as a possible solution.

Scott M. commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities and cited issues with lack of signage and lack of open space.

Ed Becker commented in support of electric bicycles on natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities but cited that there should be age limits or designated times for people to use electric bicycles.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

OC Parks Commission to select and recommend one of the following actions:

- A. The OC Parks Commission recommends OC Parks staff explore the feasibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities.

or

- B. The OC Parks Commission does not recommend OC Parks staff explore the feasibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities.

Motion to recommend OC Parks staff explore the feasibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities: Commissioner Diaz

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 4-0 (Commissioner Hanson recused himself)

VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT (ITEM(S) A-B)

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided updates.

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B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Annual Rancho Days Fiesta – Heritage Hill Historical Park – Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Come explore the rich history of Orange County's rancho era through hands-on activities, crafts, music, dance and more! Activities and performances include Native American and Folklorico dancing, early California ranching hands-on activities and exhibitors, music, piñata breaking and crafts for children, charro horse riding and roping demonstrations.

Endangered Species Day: Paint Night – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Friday, May 16, 6 – 8 p.m.

- In recognition of Endangered Species Day, join us for a guided painting program to learn more about the threatened and endangered species that call Orange County home. This fun and engaging program will include a brief discussion and time to paint your own canvas to take home.

Modjeska's Spring Open House – Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Join OC Parks at the annual spring open house at Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens! Enjoy Shakespearean performances by the Modjeska Shakespeare Players, live music performances by The Orange Town Revival and docent-led tours of the iconic home and grounds.

Create in the Park: Start Creating Outside – George Key Ranch Historic Park – Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- Professional artist, Dawn Buckingham, will guide you through the basics of plein air painting and provide tips on selecting and packing art supplies. A guided tour about the history of George Key Ranch will also be included.

Spring into Summer – Old Orange County Courthouse – Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Bring your blankets and chairs and kick off the summer season with OC Parks with live performances from The Como La Flor Band: A Tribute to Selena and Yari Moré Latin Band on the historic Courthouse lawn and enjoy tasty treats from the food trucks. The event will also include step-by-step art demos, a native plant and animal exhibit in the Third Floor Exhibit Gallery, tours of the

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courthouse, hands-on paleontology and interpretive activities, crafts for kids and much more!

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT *8:00 p.m.*