

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Norton, Clark, Felder, and Osborne were present. Members Lee, Conners, Orgill, Jones, and Foley 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.

Public Participation was reopened after Item IV.G.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to approve reopening Public Participation after Item IV.G

Erin Andreatta, Crystal Cove Conservancy Program Manager, commented on: Finalized funding for the last of the cottage restorations; Education programs will include more science/environmental literacy with activities like "Explore the Cove", cruise for older students with emphasis on Marine Protected Areas; also Art through Conservation working with the Laguna Art Museum to illustrate the connection between art and environmental science. Member Osborne noted that the new cultural education requirement for our schools will provide an opportunity for CCC to share the Japanese culture and history of this area

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 MARCH 12, 2025 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

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: Educational Field trips for school year 2024–2025 included 74 trips with more than 3,500 students, all free for the school districts with the last field trip March 14th. For the new school year LCF will reach out to the Title One school districts and also to Laguna Beach.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Authority members Osborne and Norton have assisted with meetings with the Laguna Beach School District.

Outreach: The LCF Speaker series at the Susie Q Center have been very popular with the Birds and Native Plant topics.

LCF is working with the Sawdust Festival coordinating an Art in the Park program on May 31 and June 21 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at LCF headquarters. Also introducing a Heroes of the Night about bats at Laguna Coast (LCWP) and Aliso and Wood Canyons (AWCWP) Wilderness Parks on July 26 and September 27. All the events are on the LCF website.

LCF is discussing the continued partnership with OC Parks for updating the interpretative exhibits at the Nix Nature Center (NNC). LCF Board members will meet at the NNC on May 15th and have an opportunity to review the exhibits.

Restoration Trail Days with volunteers include rock work and a drainage feature at the Old Emerald Trail, Rocket and decommissioning the Nose trail in Los Trancos.

Big Trail Fundraiser on June 14th, more information can be found on their website.

Ten-year project at AWCWP completed with Arundo, removed from 55 acres near Pectin Reef. Final sign-off of completed restoration.

Working with the Laguna Beach Fire Department on evaluating expansion of the fuel modification zones along the AWCWP edge.

LCF has submitted an application for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to fund a 61-acre habitat restoration and enhancement project. Discussion by Authority members to include a letter of support for the project in our July agenda.

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

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.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 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: Trail events continue into June; “Living with Wildlife” presentation sponsored by the cities of Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo Animal Services on Tuesday, June 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Crown Valley Community Center.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

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: County of Orange fiscal update – hiring freeze through the end of the fiscal year (June) for all departments.

The May 1st Park Ranger Academy graduation of 10 trainees who are now in their six weeks Field Program which will end June 12, then the recruits are assigned to permanent park facilities. It was noted that our parks are still short three positions.

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: Regarding Pacific Pocket Mouse projects – there is one active site at Water Tank with 50 new mice released on April 28th. Previously observed 23 mice showing a good increase in the healthy population.

Fire Training – Orange County Fire Authority and Huntington Beach Fire have been using LCWP for fire training.

Recent tour assistance with sharing wildlife crossings under the 133 and 73 with the Laguna Greenbelt and their wildlife corridor consultants.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Park attendance in accordance so far for 200,000 visitors per year.

Staff vacancies include Part-time Park Attendant and Ranger II – both positions are in the process of fulfillment.

Rainfall to date – just over 8 inches.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: Changes in staff include: Adam's promotion to Supervising Ranger II and reassignment to Laguna Niguel Regional Park but will also continue to oversee the overall operation of AWCWP. Annelise Gannaway has been transferred from Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park to AWCWP as on-site, day-to-day supervision of operations. AWCWP is currently short 2 positions – Park Maintenance Worker II and one Park Ranger. Typically, AWCWP is staffed with a Supervising Park Ranger (currently Annelise Gannaway) and two Park Rangers. Currently Park Ranger II Nicole Chambers fills one position but the other remains vacant.

Under the direction of the Resource Specialist the invasives – mustard, tree tobacco, and other invasives have been removed in Five Oaks section with restoration efforts including new planting and fences.

New U-Polaris vehicle equipped with code-3 lights and siren.

Ranger staff working with Orange County Sheriff's Department on the homeless issue, not just to remove them but to help the homeless receive care.

As a response to an Authority member's question it was noted that OC Parks staff continue to work with others regarding the illegal trail use in the Top of the World area near Nestall Road.

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)

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

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 an overview of the issue.

Penelope Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, provided an update on a city council meeting that addressed this subject and stated that the city council had approved a few tasks to look into this issue but did not approve a decibel study.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file the item.

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: Member Osborne

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.

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, read an email from Southern California Edison stating that their activities will be completed by June. Weekly call

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

meeting will start again with CALTRANS. Authority Members noted that we are willing to write a letter of support for completing the project as soon as possible.

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.

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. Authority member indicated Laguna College of Art and Design might have received funding for the project but no confirmation as of yet.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

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: Planning Phase is officially underway for the Wildlife Corridor with the April gathering of the team and primary consultants (Robert Rock Design Team). Activities included recent tour of 133/73 undercrossing/wildlife corridors, tour of pinch points for camera study consultants, larger meeting planned of consultants and advisors from across the state, initiate intensified camera study at pinch points; working with others to improve existing wildlife corridors within the 22,000 acre park system. The Annenberg Wildlife Corridor tour awaits CALTRANS selection of a date.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

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 noted that Members Norton and Clark and Chair Fegraus continue to work on the Addendums. Focus is on items useful for the future of LCWP but also retaining the history. It was suggested that the July meeting be held at the Nix Nature Center with the Addendums as the primary agenda topic

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 continue the item: Member Norton

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to 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.

Chair Fegraus asked Member Osborne to share her work with school districts and the recent California Green Ribbon School Award for the Laguna Beach School District. Member Osborne works with three school districts, eight schools, teaching environmental science including the standards, and implementing school gardens.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO JULY 9, 2025 MEETING 4:34 p.m.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the July 9, 2025 meeting.