

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Jim Foley, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented about the Dripping Cave Trail and the present trail status.

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 14, 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: staff change with Derek Breaux, Development Director, leaving to join the City of Laguna Niguel Community Development staff; recent presentation to the City of Laguna Woods – many good questions and appreciation of LCF's work; on June 23rd participated with Laguna Canyon Conservancy to present a public program on fire responses; on June 27th hosted a well-attended volunteer appreciation dinner; no educational field trips during the summer – have met with Laguna Beach school district about including them in future field trips; meeting with Laguna College of Art & Design to look at the Nix Nature Center exhibits; working with OC Parks on single track assessments and to prioritize future work on them; working on Orange County Transit Authority restoration project; providing advice, not physical work on City of Laguna Beach fuel modifications; application completed for Parcel 5 restoration and tour planned for OC Parks directors.

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B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Member Orgill shared the following: City of Laguna Beach is working with LCF on the trail connectivity from Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park to the City of Laguna Beach Open Space above the Ranch; work continues by a volunteer group to update the City of Laguna Beach Open Space and Conservation General Plan Element.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, NCC Outreach Coordinator and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following; the theme of the July 2025 NCC Quarterly Newsletter is the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the impactful contributions it provides to conservation in Orange County; this edition's stories focus on why the Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) evolved, how CDFW resources benefit Orange County, and an update on the status of native bumble bees and the burrowing owl; a new five-year trail monitoring program will start in October 2025; the focus will be on indicators – unauthorized trails, number of visitations observed using Streetlight technology, interaction between plants and animals on the trails by users, and trail conditions (consultant will study 160 trail miles); a trail Use Intercept will summarize trail problems over time; the report will be received by all landowners with open space in the NCCP/Habitat Conservation Plan 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 Superintendent, shared the following: continuing the educational publication What's in your Pack; Member Felder attended the City of Laguna Niguel "Living with Wildlife" well done presentation, Kirby noted it will be presented again during the winter months; questions about the City of Laguna Niguel drone fireworks July 4th activity – Kirby noted it was well-attended.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Orgill

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 Park Division Manager, shared the following: review of protocol for filling vacant staff positions; interviews starting for park positions with 500 applicants that will start the interview stages; currently for our park division there are three vacant positions and soon to be four; fulfillment of staff positions better this year than in the past; question by Authority member if staffing will include the one vacant position at each park, AWCWP and LCWP, from the past; noted the OC Parks Sunset Cinema Series schedule, very popular.

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: introduction of new park ranger Jessica (Jessie) Valentine; the vacant Park Attendant position has been unfrozen and applicants are being interviewed now; for the new fiscal year LCWP has received funding for a shade structure at the mulch area where students gather for their park tours and also funding to continue the bird dot preventive application for other window structures at Little Sycamore Canyon Staging Area; resource specialist Shelbi Richardson noted that OC Parks is looking into standardizing the Wildlife Camera Study program used by staff and volunteers as a monitoring tool.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: he is now stationed at Laguna Niguel Regional Park and introduced Annelise Gannaway as the new Supervising Park Ranger I at AWCWP.

Annelise Gannaway, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: there is a current goat program adjacent to the AWCWP; Provided an overview about the fence issue at Nestall Road and unauthorized trail near Alpine Way.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Member Orgill

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

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

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–C)

A. CRYSTAL COVE CONSERVANCY UPDATES

Crystal Cove Conservancy staff will provide updates on their recent programs, events, and other activities.

Jennifer (Jen) Mendez, Crystal Cove Conservancy Senior Conservation Manager, shared the following: summer internships helping with summer activities; CCC is creating a standard for data collection; developing a community-based stewardship program for restoration projects – identify sites, work with state staff for restoration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion to receive and file the update and to include Crystal Cove Conservancy in the Authority Members and Partners Announcements and Updates portion of future agendas: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file the item and to include Crystal Cove Conservancy in the Authority Members and Partners Announcements and Updates portion of future agendas.

B. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT LETTER

Laguna Canyon Foundation has submitted a grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board to help fund a habitat restoration and enhancement project within a portion of LCWP. The Authority will discuss the possibility of preparing and submitting a letter in support of this grant application.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the Chair to prepare and issue a letter in support of Laguna Canyon Foundation's grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board to help fund a habitat restoration and enhancement project in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

Motion to approve and issue the draft letter prepared by the Chair: Chair Fegraus

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2nd: Member Orgill

Approved 3–0–1 (Member Norton abstained)

C. 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 8 of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Addendum I. OC Parks staff and public comments were noted some of which included adding Irvine Ranch Water District to the public utility agencies referred to on page 1, would be helpful to have an ownership map resulting from the purchase of the Laguna Laurel development lands on page 2. It was noted that the work on the second Addendum, Nix Nature Center is still in the early draft stage.

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: Chair Fegraus

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 September 10, 2025 meeting agenda.

Chair Fegraus noted that previous Agenda items continued from May 14, 2025 meeting will be on the September agenda.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 MEETING 4:52 p.m.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the September 10, 2025 Meeting.