

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair McCary, and Members Orgill, Osborne, and Clark were present. Chair Fegraus, and Members Norton, Lee, Conners, Jones, Foley, and Felder 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 JULY 9, 2025 MEETING.

Motion: Member Orgill

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to approve

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

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Scott Thomas, LCF Executive Director, shared the following: Saturday, September 27 is National Public Lands Day – LCF has 3 events planned for the day. With OC Parks a Keep It Wild Day at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and a Bioblitz at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, also a native plant nursery volunteer day at the Dilley Preserve with seed collecting. On Saturday, October 4 as part of “Love Laguna Beach” there will be a Aliso Creek cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon and a land tending event at the Berns Canyon Preserve. LCF will participate in OC Parks Volunteer Celebration on Friday, September 12.

2025-2026 Student Field Trip season: hiring two new educators, goal of educating over 3,500 students, making progress with Laguna Beach Unified School District personnel to offer education programs to 2nd and 7th grade Laguna Beach Unified School District students. Member Norton and LCF Board member Adele Heuer are coordinating Wellness Hikes with Laguna Beach High School students as part of the FLOW program.

During July LCF met with Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD) staff to discuss a partnership with them on the development of two new exhibits for the Nix Nature

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Center. LCF will attend the upcoming September 16 Laguna Canyon Road Protect and Connect town hall.

LCF Trails staff have conducted trail assessments to help determine Trail work priority for the upcoming season; Single track trail assessments are complete and LCF staff is working with OC Parks staff on trail work schedules; LCF will attend along with OC Parks and other Trail User representatives the OC Parks Trails Committee meeting on September 25 for feedback on proposed priority projects and maintenance work; volunteer stewardship events will resume in October.

LCF is still waiting for the grant approval of the 71-acre habitat restoration project for Parcel 5 in LACO which should be on November 20th Wildlife Conservation Board agenda. LCF conducted a site of Parcel 5 for OC Parks Director and Executive Management staff. LCF is in discussion with the City of Laguna Beach, OCTA and OC Parks on a possible defined trail to an overlook on Aliso Ridge near Moulton Meadows Park and the Aswut Trail.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

No update at this time.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

James Sulentich, NCC Executive Director, shared the following: Natural Resource Management Coordinator Mendel Stewart is retiring. Levi Gray, Ph.D will take over the position. Dr. Gray is from northern California, worked for the USFWS on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program before recent federal program cuts. With a bachelor's degree from UC Davis and doctorate from University of New Mexico Dr. Gray brings a wealth of knowledge to help the Central/Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) program.

OC Parks and Nix Nature Center have kicked off the Conservation Cattle Grazing Pilot Project in Weir Canyon. With a purpose of assessing the role cattle may play as a targeted habitat restoration tool. The project has been in the planning stage for nearly five years and includes a very scientific rigorous grazing prescription. Researchers from UCSD, UC Extension Service, UC Riverside, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State LA, Occidental College and USGS will monitor before, during and after the effects of the pilot grazing project on soils, vegetation, small mammals, birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians. The results will be published at the end of the five-year project. The herd of 60 head of cattle were introduced into the 200-acre pasture on August 7th. If any Authority members would like a tour please contact NCC

The next NCC Board meeting is September 18th. Authority members are always welcome.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

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: Laguna Niguel Recreation Fall Trail events “What’s In Your Pack” are September 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Salt Creek Trail and October 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Aliso Summit Trail.

H. CRYSTAL COVE CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–H.

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Osborne

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

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: coming up the September 12th OC Parks Volunteer Celebration – a time to appreciate these volunteers; Activities to fill the 5 Park Ranger vacancies – of the 400 applications, 75 were selected with 28 of those undergoing background checks. Training for 21 Ranger reserve training continues to November 8.

B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK (LCWP) AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK (AWCWP) SPOTLIGHT

1. AWCWP Update

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

Annelise Gannaway, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: OC Parks Rangers, in coordination with allied agencies including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Laguna Beach Police Department and Park Rangers along with a contracted debris removal service, successfully remediated and restored five encampments located within dense vegetation along the Aliso Creek Bikeway and Laguna Canyon Road. The Laguna Beach Fire Department's grazing goats will return to Nestall Street this Friday to resume vegetation management efforts. Their temporary removal allowed the area's native Tarweed to fully mature and produce seeds prior to reintroducing the goats for continued grazing.

2. LCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: As of August 22 Logan Williams, is now LCWP's part-time Attendant. This weekend position helps in the parking lot, in the Nix Nature Center, checks restrooms and assists the maintenance crew.

Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) Field trip on August 27th. Approximately 25 members from around the country attended the Field Trip focused on the partnership between Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks. They toured the Nix Nature Center area and took a hike to Barbara's Lake.

OCFA Meeting at Crystal Cove State Park August 27th: OC Park Rangers from LCWP and AWCWP met with State Parks peace officers and OC Fire Authority firefighters including a Battalion Chief. The focus was to keep communications going between the agencies. Staff brought maps and looked at the best places to stage during incidents, trails to use, problem areas for radios/cell phones, property lines and other concerns.

Special Note: Larry Acosta, Park Maintenance Supervisor is retiring November 27th. He has been with the county 18 years and around 11 years at LCWP.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Member Orgill

2nd: Member Clark

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

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–G)

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

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

The City of Laguna Beach is considering 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.

Penny Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented on the City of Laguna Beach has agreed to waive existing decibel regarding sound for a production in November to allow a second study of decibel levels at the perimeters near the larger community. An earlier study suggested that problematic decibel levels at the stage level, decrease as the sound moved outward, and was nearly "silent" in areas adjacent to the wilderness park.

Member Orgill will ask that the City of Laguna Beach present the report findings to the Authority for its further consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue 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.

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Member Clark

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.

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Orgill

2nd: Member Osborne

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.

Steve Brittan, Laguna College of Art and Design President and CEO, provided the following update on the project: LCAD received a significant gift to help with the construction of the approved 22,000 sq. ft Student Center. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September 21, with construction completion by June 2026. The Student Center will serve the 700-student body and additionally provide a venue for community events. This new building is an effort to consolidate the campus sites and thereby reduce traffic with only two campus sites – Big Bend and the Main Campus. There is an intent to build affordable student housing on the Big Bend campus, perhaps using the existing parking lot area. Brittan was asked whether that housing would be tallied in the city's requirement affordable housing sites. Brittan noted that the city and college attorneys are discussing this issue.

Penny Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented on the Big Bend is the site of a critical wildlife corridor between AWCWP and LCWP and that approval of the construction would require wildlife studies before, during, and after the construction to monitor wildlife use.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Orgill

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: Proposition 4 has received bipartisan support to fund the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor at \$20 million this year and more in

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

subsequent years. As a result of this proposed funding, the Wildlife Corridor Team has been invited to submit a pre-application in December that would support further studies and other features of the Work Plan. They hope to launch a camera study this year guided by Rober Rock Design Associates (known for the Annenberg Wildlife Corridor Project) and Pathways, (known for northern California animal camera studies). Additionally, the Wildlife Corridor Team will be scheduling some informational “zoom” meetings to brief Partner Charter Members, Councils, and other agency members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Member Orgill

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.

Member Clark noted the Team was commencing Draft 10 of the LCWP General Development Plan Addendum after receiving very useful information from OC Parks staff, public members and others involved with LCWP over the years. The Draft 10 is being circulated now for more comments and information. The Team hopes to present it for final Draft at the November Authority meeting. The Addendum on the new section of the General Development Plan regarding the Nix Nature Center will be presented later. The Nix Nature Center was not part of the original 1998 General Development Plan as it was not built until 2007.

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: Member Orgill

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

G. CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH BIKE PUMP TRACK

The City of Laguna Beach is considering the construction of a bike pump track at a location adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. Authority Members will discuss any potential impacts to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and any needed response to the proposal.

David Browning, Orange County Mountain Bike Association, commented in favor of the track, noting that while it may require policing and patrolling, it may reduce fire hazards; that it is not on NCCP/HCP land but would require transfer of land between agencies; would include land restoration and would unite stakeholders – bikers, residents, and park officials.

Jim Foley, Orange County Mountain Biking, commented on his experience working LCF on trail maintenance and supports rehabilitation of the site.

Gayle Waite, Laguna Canyon Conservancy President, commented on her support of recreation, but can't support the proposed location and suggested the St. Catherine's new city Recreation Center as an alternate site.

Penny Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented that the proposed site is not "adjacent" to AWCWP but is within the wilderness park. This rough landscape is what is left on the urban edge and is much traversed by human foot traffic. Suggested an alternate site at the El Toro Road and Laguna Canyon Road intersection, adjacent to Anneliese School and currently owned by CALTRANS

Scott Thomas, LCF Executive Director, commented that the issue of concern is not the proposed use, but its location which is not consistent with the adjacent wilderness park governing document – Resource Management Plan. It would set a precedent. Critical habitat is in close proximity to this proposed use of the site. Would suggest seeking a better site.

Karl Schuler commented that with his background in public safety and service felt further study is needed; the area already has repeated calls to firefighters and police, concern about traffic and noise and other disruptions to the neighborhood and needs further study before approving this site. Also noted the irrigation in Moulton Meadows Park is flawed and needs to be taken care of prior to consideration of bike pump track. Also the neighborhood needs to be more involved in the discussions.

Member Osborne noted Member Foley has asked for a delay to allow county staff to continue discussion.

Member Clark raised several questions and asked that they be forwarded to the City of Laguna Beach's Recreation Committee: The existing City map lacks clarity

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

and a new map needs to be generated to show any existing NCCP/HCP lands and their relationship to the proposed site; this would be a precedent setting action; would like a better understanding of the rehabilitation efforts proposed who would be responsible, and finally the deadline for the Recreation Committee's report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the Chair to prepare and issue a letter regarding the City of Laguna Beach's consideration of a bike pump track at a location adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

Motion to table this item until a future meeting: Member Osborne
2nd: Member Orgill
Unanimous vote to table this item until a future 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 September 10, 2025 meeting agenda.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO NOVEMBER 12, 2025 MEETING 4:11 p.m.

Motion: Member Osborne
2nd: Member Clark
Unanimous vote to adjourn to the November 12, 2025 Meeting.

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

DRAFT LETTER

November 12, 2025

RE Wildlife Camera Study for the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (Note Attached Overview)

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Landowners,

At the November 12th Coastal Greenbelt Authority meeting we received information about a proposed Wildlife Camera Study for the 6-mile planned Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor. Part of the study will focus on Laguna Canyon Road (State 133).

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc (LGB) and Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) project will enhance and expand the current wildlife camera monitoring program along Laguna Canyon Road adjacent to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

This section of Laguna Canyon Road through Laguna Coast Wilderness Park is now identified as a priority barrier to wildlife movement by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Goals of the study along Laguna Canyon Road include:

- Identify wildlife movement at the four wildlife under crossings

- Document wildlife movement

- Identify barriers and recommend improvements

The study will be conducted under best scientific practices developed by the consultants, Rock Design Associates and Pathways for Wildlife. The 18-month study will provide a statistical documentation of wildlife activity including roadkill. There will not be any financial cost to OC Parks. The study results/final report will be shared with OC Parks and other landowners of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The study will help with acquiring funding for any needed improvements along the entire Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor including those along Laguna Canyon Road.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority supports the new wildlife camera study. We ask that OC Parks and other LCWP landowners support this project.

Thank you,

Mary Fegraus

Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members

OC Parks Director Pam Passow

County of Orange Fifth District Supervisor Foley

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk, City of Laguna Beach, amckay@lagunabeachcity.net

Yolie Trippy, City Clerk, City of Laguna Woods, ytrippypy@cityoflagunawoods.org

Overview

Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor Expert-led Camera and Roadkill Studies to Document Vital Improvements for Full Function:

The Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (ILWC) represents the best opportunity to establish a vital wildlife linkage between protected core habitat areas in the Santa Ana Mountains and the isolated Laguna Coast Wilderness and Upper Newport Bay. Once completed, it will support ecosystem health by enabling wildlife—including bobcats, coyotes, deer, birds, and other species—to access essential resources such as food, water, and genetically diverse mates. With 85% of the ILWC already constructed, expert documentation of remaining barriers and targeted remediation is critical to ensure safe wildlife passage and fulfill the ILWC's ecological function.

A 2025 Site Assessment conducted by Rock Design Associates (RDA) and Pathways for Wildlife (PFW) confirmed active use of portions of the Corridor by diverse species. However, it also identified persistent barriers—including standing water, debris, lack of clear sightlines and directional fencing, noise, and human disturbance. Each of these barriers has feasible solutions, which must be validated through professionally executed camera trap and roadkill studies. A comprehensive camera study led by Rock Design Associates and Pathways across the ILWC and a focused roadkill study along Laguna Canyon Road, SR-133, will provide the necessary documentation to guide remediation.

***The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park's landowners – County of Orange, Cities of Laguna Beach, and Laguna Woods, as well as local environmental organizations, and Laguna Canyon Homeowners (CANDO) who were part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Laguna Laurel Development land for parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

DRAFT

November 12, 2025

RE: Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Landowners,

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the 1998 General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

As part of the CGA oversight we have been preparing the Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Update). This Update does not replace the 1998 documents but adds more information and history to date about Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

The accompanying Update is Part 1 of the project.

We will next work on Part 2, the Nix Nature Center Historical Update. The Nix Nature Center Historical Update does not replace the 1998 documents. It will provide information about the Nix Nature Center from the planning stages, completion and to date activities. Each of the updates will also have a "Goals Moving Forward" Section.

The third part of the project is the citing of the various documents noted in the updates so that they can be referenced with links within the new documents. We have been working on this and appreciate the efforts of those helping with the documents.

We plan to complete all three projects early in 2026.

We ask that OC Parks provide staff resources to review and finalize the documents. CGA members will be available to help as needed.

We also ask that the cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods support this project with letters to our 5th District Supervisor and OC Parks Director urging that this project be completed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Mary Fegraus

Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members
OC Parks Director Pam Passow
County of Orange Fifth District Supervisor Foley
City of Laguna Beach
City of Laguna Woods

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

I. Introduction

Since 1998 there have been many changes to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (LCWP). These include newly acquired land and ownership. Currently approximately 7,000 acres of wilderness with approximately 42 miles of trails are owned by the County of Orange, State of California, Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods. These are managed by Orange County Parks.

The public utility agencies: Southern California Edison, Laguna Beach County Water District and Irvine Ranch Water District have land holdings located within LCWP perimeter and manage these holdings independently under agreements with Orange County. Multiple ownership presents challenges but also opportunities for collaboration. The intent of preserving this land remains the same as stated in the 1990 purchase agreement – “Habitat preservation and passive recreation.”

The preservation of LCWP united approximately 22,000 acres of wilderness parks and preserves with contiguous boundaries in south Orange County. This South Coast Wilderness area includes the City of Newport Beach Open Space, Crystal Cove State Park, City of Irvine Open Space Preserve, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, City of Laguna Beach Open Space, City of Laguna Woods Open Space, and the Newport Beach Homeowners Associations land near the Pacific Ridge Trail.

Art is a part of the history of LCWP and the larger Laguna Beach community. Within the park, art is obvious in interpretative signage, inherent in each of the Nix Nature Center exhibits, architecturally visible as the Painters' Pier, explicit in educational activities, and seen in collaboration with art entities such as Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD).

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA), established by the 1990 Laguna Laurel purchase agreement, remains the oversight authority of the management of LCWP. In that role CGA initiated the development of this Addendum.

Include CGA Bylaws in either the Reference section or the Appendix.

Provide the link to the OC Parks website for current CGA meetings/minutes and Bylaws.

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

II. Timeline of Preservation Actions

The following Timeline illustrates the progress of the preservation of land within the coastal canyons of Orange County.

- 1972 County of Orange Board of Supervisors approved the concept of a Laguna Greenbelt at the urging of Jim Dilley, a Laguna bookstore owner who formed the nonprofit, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.
- 1978 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Laguna Canyon area now called the James Dilley Greenbelt Preserve (376 acres) in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- 1979 Dedication of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park through development agreement between the Mission Viejo Company and the County of Orange. Originally 4,200 acres, currently 4,500 acres.
- 1984 State of California purchased The Irvine Company land for Crystal Cove State Park – 2,791 acres of inland and coastal land
- 1987 City of Laguna Beach reached an out-of-court settlement regarding the development of 471 acres now known as Laguna Heights.
- 1988 California Proposition 70 passed with funding to help with the purchase of land from the Carman Sandling development creating the Laguna Heights area and the dedication of the Carolyn Wood Knoll.
- 1988 Orange County Board of Supervisors approved The Irvine Company's Laguna Laurel Development Plan which would have created a new community in Laguna Canyon.
- 1989 More than 8,000 Southern California residents participated in the Walk in Laguna Canyon on November 11th to protest the development in Laguna Canyon and to show their support for preserving the land.
- 1990 In the California November election almost 80% of Laguna Beach voters approved state Proposition H, a \$20 million bond for the purchase of the land planned for the Laguna Laurel Development. Laguna's vote was the highest for a California bond measure since 1956.
- 1990 Historic Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement between The Irvine Company, City of Laguna Beach, County of Orange and State of California to purchase the land slated for the Laguna Laurel development. The purchase agreement was in five Option payments.
- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| June 30,1991 | \$33 million | Preserved 1,286 acres |
| June 30,1992 | \$3 million | Preserved 26 acres |
| April 9, 1993 | \$4 million | Preserved 50 acres |
| October 15,1993 | \$5 million | Preserved 41 acres |

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

Include reference map of parcels Still trying to find map of acreage ownership

The Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement ended June 30, 1995 with a lack of \$33 million funding for the 5th Option of 173 acres. The cities of Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Leisure World Mutuels, Orange County and Laguna Canyon Foundation approved a Joint Statement of concern for the use of Parcel 5. They continued to work with The Irvine Company to reach an agreement for the last developable Laguna Laurel parcel within Laguna Canyon approved for more than 1,500 housing units.

The Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement also established the Coastal Greenbelt Authority. Members at that time included the landowners: City of Laguna Beach, County of Orange and State of California as outlined in the Bylaws.

- 1993 On April 10th Supervisor Thomas Riley, Orange County Fifth District Supervisor, led the dedication ceremony of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. Public access started under Managed Access for docent led tours one weekend per month.
- 1996 Opening of the San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor.
- 1998 The Newport Coast Development agreement with the County of Orange added 2,000 acres to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This eventually included Ridge Park, Boat Canyon, Emerald Canyon, Dartmoor and Water Tank areas.
- 2000 James and Rosemary Nix pledged \$500,000 for a nature center at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The Nix Nature Center opened to the public on March 17, 2007
- 2000 California Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 12) included a \$12.5 million line item to undertake projects for the South Coast Wilderness system of coastal canyons and watersheds in south Orange County, including, but not limited to, properties for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.
- 2000 County of Orange and Newport Coast Development Agreement for park operations over Boat Road.
- 2001 The Irvine Company gifted 11,000 acres to the County of Orange which included the remaining Laguna Laurel Development land (Parcel 5), 173 acres, for public open space.
- 2002 City of Laguna Woods purchased 10.6 acres with the first funding from the 2000 State Proposition 12 through the Coastal Conservancy. Land is leased to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This acquisition established the City of Laguna Woods as a member of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority.

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

- 2004 Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the concept of long-term leases to include land not owned by the County of Orange under the management of Laguna Coast Wilderness and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks County staff.
Include reference chart of acquired parcels and parcels leased data.
- 2004 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Trinity 36-acre parcel and the Wainwright 32-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcels to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
- 2004 Ridge Park was dedicated as part of the Newport Coast Agreement with the County of Orange.
- 2006 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Decker 11.43-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcel to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
- 2006 Realignment of Laguna Canyon Road from the I-405 freeway to SR73, creating undercrossings that provide trail connections and improve wildlife movement to ensure diversity. The realignment unified Lakes 1 and 2 and eliminated seasonal flooding along the road.
- 2007 The Nix Nature Center Dedication Ceremony held on March 17, 2007, was led by Fifth District Supervisor Tom Wilson. The Center's total cost was \$3.5 million and included interpretive exhibits (2,300 square feet) and an administrative building for a total of 3,000 square feet. James and Rosemary Nix donated \$500,000 to kick-off the planning for the nature center.
- 2007 City of Laguna Beach purchased the following with Prop 12 Funds and leased these parcels to the County of Orange for management as part of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park:
- Haun 10.45-acre parcel
 - Jaysu 27.92-acre parcel
 - Stonefield 50.37-acre parcel
 - Chao 58.4-acre parcel
- 2008 City of Laguna Beach purchased the SBD 10.38-acres with Prop 12 Funds.
- 2009 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Bunn-Moore 4.5-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds
- 2012 City of Laguna Beach purchased the McGraw 1.99-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds
- 2013 City of Laguna Beach purchased the McGehee 56.25-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds
Include Chart of Proposition 12 Acquisitions

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

Important Agreements regarding LCWP – The following are agreements that impact LCWP -

- 1996 Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the Coastal Subregion including LCWP
- 2000 County of Orange and Newport Coast Development Agreement
- 2003 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation Agreement defines the development of the Nix Nature Center and interpretive exhibits
- 2004 Orange County Board of Supervisors approves long-term lease agreements between Orange County and the cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods for OC Parks to manage these lands as part of Laguna Coast and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks
- 2006 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation reached an agreement for the development of Mary's Trail, adjacent to the Nix Nature Center, to serve as an interpretative resource and a connection to existing trails from the Nix Nature Center
- 2008 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) Agreement defining LCF support of park projects and volunteer programs
- 2008 Agreement between the County of Orange and LCF provides the basis for LCF to commit financial resources to assist in park enhancements and improvements.
- 2009, 2015 Lease agreements between Orange County and the City of Laguna Beach were signed for parcels acquired with Prop 12 funds to be managed by OC Parks as part of Laguna Coast and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks.
- 2011 Lease agreement between County of Orange and the City of Laguna Woods for parcels acquired with Prop 12 funds to be managed as part of LCWP.
- 2012 County of Orange and Ridge Homeowners Association (Irvine Community Development Company) trail easement agreement regarding Pacific Ridge Trailhead to Muddy Canyon.
- 2013 First County of Orange and Southern California Edison agreement to manage Edison Trail as part of LCWP. The agreement was renewed in 2018, expired in 2023 with renewal currently under discussion.
- 2016 Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP) was adopted as part of the NCCP/HCP program
- 2019 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan (HREP) Update of the original 2003 HREP as part of the NCCP/HCP program

Include in References with links to the Agreement documents on OC Parks and LCWP website

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

III. Existing Park Development and Ongoing Implementation

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Management Practices History

- LCWP opened in 1993 under Managed Access practices with limited access.
- Today Adaptive Management Practices guide the management of access and habitat protection. This strategy provides the ability to close and open trails to regulate visitor use, such as hiking, biking, and equestrian uses, to prevent overuse and habitat damage, and to allow for restoration and research activities. The strategy stresses the importance of Park Etiquette – stay on the trails, no dogs or e-bikes, no after-hours incursions into the park.
- Trail Maintenance and Repair – include the Current process with a link to the current Trail Manual.
- Currently LCWP is open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to Sunset and Parking Areas 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Include in References a link to OC Parks/LCWP website

Current LCWP Management and Operations

- Plans were initially outlined through an Interim Operations Plan, then detailed under the 1998 GDP and RMP documents.
- With the inclusion of OC Parks in the Community Resources Department, there was a change in the management structure. The current OC Parks management team for LCWP includes the LCWP Supervising Ranger, Laguna Canyons Operations Manager and OC Parks Division Manager. This team is responsible for all the LCWP park staff management, operations and obligations.
- Laguna Heights acreage is approximate to AWCWP so for best management practices it managed by AWCWP, but it is within the boundaries of LCWP.

New Authorized Public Access Points – need new Staging Areas (Parking) and Trail Access Maps and to include in References a link to OC Parks website

- At the time of the 1993 opening of LCWP there were four authorized public access points known as Staging Areas with fee parking – Big Bend, James Dilley Preserve, Little Sycamore Canyon and Willow Canyon (which replaced the Laurel Canyon Staging area noted in the 1998 General Development and Resource Management Plans). Later the Laguna Bowl Trail, multi-use access, was designated at the Laguna Bowl on Laguna Canyon Road with metered Laguna Beach street parking.

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

- 2025 additional access points also include:
 - Ridge Park, Gate 9, dedicated in 2004, providing entry to LCWP, Crystal Cove State Park and City of Irvine Open Space. Only street parking is available.
 - Access points from Crystal Cove State Park along the Bommer Ridge Trail
 - Woods End, near the intersection of El Toro Road and Aliso Creek Road, with limited parking, providing access to the LCWP's James Dilley section and onward to Little Sycamore Canyon using the Laguna Canyon Road undercrossing.
 - Laguna Beach Dartmoor and Poplar Streets providing public access to the southern portion of LCWP with limited street parking only.
 - Stairsteps Trail has no parking available at its lower terminus but can be reached from Laguna Beach's Alta Laguna Park with its free parking and then hiking West Ridge Trail to its upper trailhead. This trail links Aliso and Wood Canyons and Laguna Coast Wilderness Parks.
 - Within the City of Irvine: Quail Hill, Shady Canyon, Bommer Canyon, and Stagecoach North trails permit hikers managed access to LCWP.

Trails – Include in Reference a website link to the latest trails map (July 2022)

Today LCWP has approximately 42 miles of trails including the following new, legal trails:

New and Extended Trails

- Woods End Trail, Ridge Top, Barbara's Lake Trail, Gravel Trail, Edison Trail, Blackjack Trail in the Dilley section of LCWP
- Bommer Ridge, Old Emerald Trail (starting near bottom of Emerald Canyon to middle of Emerald Canyon), Emerald Canyon Road (from Post 14 to back gate of Emerald Bay), Old Emerald Falls Trail, and Lizard Trail
- Mary's Trail, dedicated in 2007, adjacent to the Nix Nature Center

Renamed Trails

- BVD was renamed Old Emerald Falls Trail
- Bea Whittlesey Trail was renamed Canyon Trail

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

Renamed Areas

- Laguna Laurel – this was the original name of the proposed Irvine Company development within Laguna Canyon. However, Laurel Canyon is a specific key geographic area of LCWP.
- Sycamore Hills – this was the original name of the current James Dilley Preserve.
- Parcel 5 – is located between the eastern edge of Barbara's Lake and Lake Forest Road. It was dedicated by The Irvine Company to Orange County and retains its name, Parcel 5.
- Laguna Heights – originally the area was called Honda Hill, north of the Top of the World neighborhood.

Fire Prevention

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) was established in 1995 as a Joint Powers Authority and provides guidance for fuel modification and plant palette guidelines.

OCFA recommended a Fuel and Plant Palette for the Nix Nature Center buildings and the Willow Canyon office.

Within the agreements the NCCP/HCP program there is a specific Fuel Modification Plan for Willow Canyon and Little Sycamore Canyon including the Nix Nature Center.

Provide link to Fuel Modification Plan – Natural Communities Coalition will help with documentation, also OCFA documents. Still need more research on documentations.

Hydrology *Include Photo of Interpretive Sign at Barbara's Lake*

With the realignment of Laguna Canyon Road, there are now two lakes instead of the original three. Barbara's Lake and the small pond nicknamed Bubbles Pond are now connected along their original natural alignment. Barbara's Lake was named for Barbara Stuart, a founding member of Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

Reference Lake water studies.

Biological Resources

A number of biological studies have been done in addition to the ones with the NCCP/HCP program. *Include in the Reference section as many studies as possible including the more recent study by the San Diego Natural History Museum, and on-going camera studies.*

IV. Park Information and Signage

OC Parks maintains standardized signs to designate trail use, park etiquette and County codified ordinances. All trails have specific use designations to protect the habitat. Trail designations include Hiking Only, while Multi-Use trails permit Hiking, Biking and Equestrian uses. E-bikes and any unauthorized motorized vehicles are not permitted on any trails. Dogs are forbidden in any part of

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

LCWP. Camping is not permitted in LCWP. This information appears on kiosks, maps, websites and at all authorized public access sites.

The Interpretive Signage program was developed by Laguna Canyon Foundation with interpretative panels thorough out the park.

Include current interpretive signage photos. OC Parks now has a standardized sign program – need to include that website link

Orientation Panels

The plein-air paintings, owned by the Laguna Canyon Foundation, are on display in the Nix Nature Center Gallery, and are the originals used to reproduce a series of orientation panels installed throughout the park in 2001. These Orientation Panels are at the six entrances to key trails. The panels orient visitors to the “mosaic” that is the South Coast Wilderness, introduce visitors to the unique qualities of each access point and encourage responsible park use.

The Orientation signs received a second-place award in the Wayfarer Category from the National Association for Interpretation in the 2002 national interpretation competition. The development of the six orientation signs was funded by a grant from The Bren Foundation and designed by The Acorn Group and SoLa Creative.

Include photos.

2009 Monument Signs

Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) and OC Parks managed the design and implementation by SoLA Creative to create and install Monument Signs at each of the four staging areas – Dilley Greenbelt, Big Bend, Willow Canyon, Nix Nature Center. The project was funded by Laguna Canyon Foundation donors including James and Rosemary Nix. *Note the 2008 Agreement between the LCF and County of Orange.*

Include photos.

Art and LCWP

Art is part of the history of LCWP and the larger Laguna Community. For the past one hundred years, plein air artists have interpreted and recorded the rich wilderness landscape through oils, watercolors and other media. Through art, awareness is raised of the region's beauty and fragility. Within the park art is used for interpretative signage, inherent in each of the Nix Nature Center exhibits, architecturally visible as the Painters Pier, and seen in the collaboration with art education entities such as the Laguna College of Art and Design.

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

V. Educational Programming

Volunteer Programs

Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks sponsor volunteer training programs critical for the park's operations. These trainings happen upon volunteer request and/or interest. Volunteers can sign up for these trainings on <https://letsgooutside.org/volunteer/> or request training from OC Parks or Laguna Canyon Foundation staff. Introductory training (Facility Certification) is required for all volunteers in LCWP, and additional trainings are required for more specific positions, including volunteering at the Nix Nature Center, Backcountry Patrol, leading a guided hike, Wildlife Camera project, trail maintenance, restoration projects and creating new programs.

In recent years Laguna Canyon Foundation has provided more than 5,000 hours of yearly service from long-term volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of LCWP's viability and the park's economy.

Provide website links..... LCF, OC Parks, Let's Go Outside. Laguna Canyon Foundation –
<http://lagunacanyon.org> <http://ocparks.com> <http://letsgooutside.org>

Education and Interpretive Programs

Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) staff and volunteers along with the LCWP Resource Specialist provide many educational and interpretive programs. During the 2024-2025 school year LCF led 70 field trips bringing 3,644 second through fifth grade students from Title 1 partner schools and select local schools for a day on the trail and field trips that follow Next-Generation Science Standards at no cost to the schools or students.

The OC Parks Resource Specialist at LCWP established in 2007, is a full-time onsite position dedicated to resource protection and public outreach including education events at LCWP focusing on this park specifically and includes kid-friendly and family programs. Public involvement is encouraged through sponsored tours for those of all abilities, cell phone tours, helpful brochures, exhibits, videos, interactive experiences, and the "What Did You See Today?" posts on a whiteboard at the Nix Nature Center which can augment the camera studies coordinated by volunteers. These and other programs are ways to help the public understand they have a responsibility to observe and care for the natural environment.

Volunteers also lead educational hikes each week for those interested in learning more about our local flora, fauna, geology and our coastal canyon wilderness. These events are detailed and highlighted on the OC Parks website and on the Laguna Canyon Foundation event page where attendees must register to attend any event <https://lagunacanyon.org/events/>

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

Goals Moving Forward -

- Continue to collaborate between the County of Orange and Southern California Edison to manage Edison Trail as part of LCWP.
- Maintain Native Plant Nursery Program managed by Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks. It provides an ongoing plant source for restoration projects and an opportunity for volunteer engagement.
- Continue to support research studies done through the NCCP/HCP program, universities, public and nonprofit organizations. Studies should be coordinated with the OC Parks Natural Resources Team. Results should be used to identify, prioritize and implement future conservation restoration projects.
- Preserve Historical Wildlife database from camera studies. The park's Resource Specialist should continue to develop the camera study program to meet operational needs.
- Continue to explore strategies to manage the increasing number of trail users. Use adaptive trail management practices to balance and mitigate the impact of the increasingly large number of trail users and protect the park's ecological resources.
- Acknowledge the importance of the existing wildlife corridors along Laguna Canyon Road(State Route 133 and San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor, 73). Explore opportunities to utilize the latest technology and techniques to protect animals and allow safe passage through wildlife corridors including wildlife corridor fencing. Be aware of possible new undercrossings or overcrossings strategically placed such as at Big Bend and Laguna Canyon Road.
- Support essential wildlife studies and wildlife corridor linkages integral to the preservation of the natural lands. Reference latest environmental studies.
- Champion the larger connections within the South Coast Wilderness parks and preserves, and the yet to-be-completed wildlife corridor connecting the South Coast Wilderness with the Cleveland National Forest.
- Continue to stress the importance of the commitment and coordination of the public agencies to promote a healthy environment and wildlife connectivity.

Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Historical Update and Goal Summary for
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Draft for November 12, 2025 CGA Meeting

- Investigate opportunities to update Nix Nature Center exhibits with more interactive elements, newer technology, and in accordance with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as well as our tribal partners. *Addendum Part II will specifically address the Nix Nature Center exhibits.*
- Utilize current education and interpretive technology and techniques to keep interpretive exhibits specific to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park interesting, exciting, and relevant to the diverse group of park visitors.
- Maintain and fill the previously approved additional Park Ranger II position.
- Maintain Parcel 5 as the only wildlife refuge area in the South Coast Wilderness parks and preserves not impacted by public access.
- Update the Cell Phone tours using available technology.
- Continue to build Geology information with educational aids such as the Geology Tour bags developed through an Eagle Scout project and the Geology brochure.
- Create an onsite library to collect specific educational materials – either purchased for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park or donated for use by Laguna Canyon Foundation and the LCWP Resource Specialist.
- Within Parcel 5, support the Nature Conservancy easement, to maintain a wildlife refuge without public access.
- Maintain no park visitor motorized vehicles in LCWP including e-bikes of all classes to enforce the goal of positive recreation and to protect wildlife and habitat.
- Continue to prohibit other activities that result in a loss or degradation of park resources.

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Ev Mena, Executive Officer

DATE: November 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Coastal Greenbelt Authority's Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2026 meeting dates is provided below for the Authority's review. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every other month at the City of Laguna Woods Council Chambers at 3:00 p.m., but confirmed meeting locations and field trips will be noted on the agenda prior to the meeting.

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve the Coastal Greenbelt Authority's 2026 Meeting Schedule.


Ev Mena