



A G E N D A & Draft MINUTES
COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY



Wednesday, March 11, 2020

3:00 p.m.

**Laguna Woods City Hall
 24264 El Toro Road
 Laguna Woods, CA 92653**

Mary Feagraus, Chair

Park Neighbors, Non-voting Members

Tiffany Ackley
 City of Aliso Viejo, Council Member
Farrah N. Khan
 City of Irvine, Council Member
Vacant
 City of Laguna Hills, Council Member
Alison Giglio, Parks and Recreation Director
 City of Laguna Niguel
Grace Leung
 City of Newport Beach
Pamela Baird, Manager of Public Services
 City of Irvine, Alternate
William A. Phillips, City of Aliso Viejo
 Council Member, Alternate
Dennis Chiotti, Alternate, City of Irvine

Ron Rivera, Recreation Manager, Alternate
 City of Laguna Niguel
Sean Levin, Deputy Director, Recreation/Sr. Services
 Alternate, City of Newport Beach
 Staff: **Justin Schmillen** – Recreation Manager
Derek Breaux – Recreation Supervisor

Voting Members

Mary Feagraus, Chair
 Environmental Groups
Cynthia Conners, Vice Chair
 City of Laguna Woods, Council Member
Toni Iseman
 City of Laguna Beach, Council Member
Lisa A. Bartlett
 Board of Supervisors, 5th District
Tom Maloney
 Member at Large
Kate Clark, Alternate
 Environmental Groups
Shari Horne, Alternate
 City of Laguna Woods, Council Member
Bob Whalen, Shohreh Dupuis, Jeremy Frimond, Alternate
 City of Laguna Beach
Vacant, Alternate
 Board of Supervisors, 5th District
Gene Felder, Alternate
 Member at Large

Those persons addressing the Authority are requested to give their names for the record. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following agenda. However, items may be taken up in a different sequence. Written materials must be received 24 hours in advance to ensure consideration by the Authority. A limited number of staff reports are available at the Authority meeting. The public may address the Authority on items of public interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Authority during the public participation section of the meeting.

1. **ROLL CALL** *Note that City of Laguna Beach City Council on February 25, 2020 appointed Shohreh Dupuis and Jeremy Frimond as Alternates.*
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Members of the public are welcome to address the Authority on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Authority and are not listed as an agenda item.
3. **MINUTES**
Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2020. Corrections/Additions
Recommended Action: Approve meeting minutes or modifications as appropriate. *On a motion by Horne with a second by Maloney, the January 8, 2020 Minutes were approved unanimously.*
4. **CGA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**
 - A. Update by Laguna Canyon Foundation by a LCF representative. *LCF Executive Director Jones reviewed the \$709,000 three-year grant to LCF to expand the Pecten Reef restoration project footprint by 21-acres in Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. LCF Staff increases to 13 with new restoration staff allowing much of the restoration work to be done without outside contractors. Jones also noted LCF is working with the City of Laguna Beach to identify and acquire additional parcels for open space. LCF has moved into the new headquarters but still waiting for the final occupancy permit.*
 - B. Update by Natural Communities Coalition by a NCC representative. *Danny Fry, Wildland Fire Management Coordinator shared the western spadefoot toad project in Crystal Cove State and Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. Project includes 5 protected sites with 12 ponds with wetland seed mix surrounding the pond areas.*
 - C. Update by City of Laguna Beach regarding open space in Laguna Beach. *Jeremy Frimond, Laguna Beach shared that the Rimrock Canyon parcels are in escrow, the city is implementing its 2020 fuel modification program, and that the city is working with CALTRANS on the 133 road project.*
 - D. Update on the City of Irvine's Open Space Preserve. *Not available at this time.*
 - E. Update on the City of Newport Beach's Open Space. *Email report from Derek Breaux: Second year of "Fostering Interest in Nature" overnight science camp which will serve 400 students from March to May, 2020. Is a partnership with Newport Back Bay and the Newport Bay Conservancy.*
 - F. Update regarding Open Space from Aliso Viejo. *Not available at this time.*
 - G. Update regarding Open Space from Laguna Niguel. *Not available at this time.*

5. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. Park Operations – All Departments Update *John Gannaway shared that a commemorative badge is being prepared celebrating the 50 years of park rangers. Also, that OC Parks is developing virus protocols.*

B. Spotlight on Laguna Coast Wilderness and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks: Park staff will highlight recent accomplishments, activities and upcoming events.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Update: *Supervising Ranger Matt Stegner shared trail improvements on Little Sycamore Canyon, Blackjack and Camarillo Canyon by Laguna Canyon Foundation and contractors. Restoration efforts at Camarillo was in partnership with REI and LCF during a Stewardship Day. 75 park visitors attended Snake Day at the Nix Nature Center organized by Park Resource Specialist Laura Cohen. OC Parks is working on consistent branded trailhead signage for the wilderness parks. LCWP trails were closed today due to rain.*

Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Update: *Supervising Ranger Brad Barker also noted the updating of trailhead signage. Gnatcatcher surveys organized by Natural Communities Coalition will start March 15th and continue for a month. These are part of the regional efforts to survey including cowbird trapping from Los Angeles to the Mexican border. The visitor center is not open to the public yet, county officials have toured the facility, still waiting on fire sprinkler approval before public use. The t- be interpretive exhibits have been in the pre-qualification process and two exhibit vendors have qualified.*

6. RECEIVE AND FILE MATTERS

A. Report by Fegraus on Irvine Wildlife Corridor – Update on activities.

Recommended Action: Receive and File *Fegraus shared that Wildlife Corridor Team is working with the City of Irvine to develop a Stakeholders Meeting and a corridor tour for city staff. Recently formed Science Advisory group includes Trish Smith - TNC, Milan Mitrovich - ICF, Shannon Crossen - ICF Senior Biologist in charge of wildlife corridor work, Winston Vickers - UC Davis, Wayne Spencer – CBI, Jutta Berger - CA Invasive Plant Council, Elisabeth Brown – LGB, Kevin Clark - San Diego Natural History Museum, Neal Sharma - Peninsula Open Space Trust Science Advisor.*

B. Report by Maloney on the 50th Anniversary of the OC Parks Rangers

Recommended Action: Receive and File *Retired Park Ranger Maloney shared some OC Parks history including how the ranger title evolved from “Park Foreman”. There will be celebratory events which will include the first ranger and the oldest ranger.*

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Caltrans presentation on the State Route 133 (Laguna Canyon Road) Safety Improvement Project and associated Road Projects. Recommended Actions:
1. Receive Caltrans presentation and public and CGA members' comments.
 2. Take a position (Support / Oppose / Support with Amendments / Oppose Unless Amended) on Caltrans State Route 133 Safety Improvement Project and associated Road Projects.

CALTRANS representative Barbara Mcgahey presented the latest update on the road project. CGA members, public, and OC Parks comments included:

- *Concern still for the southbound 300' extension of the merge lane. Back to one lane before the Willow Canyon gate.*
- *Caltrans verbally noted that paving the entrance to Willow Canyon Staging gate is part of the plan, but wasn't included in the presentation*
- *Concern with environmental damage with the use of articulated pavers as a channel*
- *Confusion in presentation of where the articulated pavers for the channel and guard rail will be – on northbound or southbound lanes between El Toro Road and the light at the 73 exit*
- *Not clear about undergrounding utilities in the El Toro Road to 73 section*
- *Understanding that there will be two lanes northbound from El Toro Road to 73, but not clearly illustrated*
- *Use of OC's parcel at the corner of El Toro Road and Laguna Canyon Road as an entrance/exit for Anneliese Pre-School has benefits. Concern about the transfer of NCCP designation to another parcel previously acquired by the City of Laguna Beach that is already deed-restricted for open space. Supportive comments for a new acquisition for the transferred NCCP designation.*
- *Comments about updated hydrology study indicate not a great difference in flood control with the road project.*
- *No dimensions for concrete check dam. Is in an existing ponding area planted with native plants to help with flooding control. Question of will the concrete check dam make a sufficient flood difference to substantiate the habitat damage. No answers to dimensions of the check dam.*
- *Plant palette not as agreed upon with OC Parks*
- *Many construction concerns will not be apparent until more environmental and construction documents are complete.*
- *Issue of Property Rights*
- *Concern about mitigation, if required, will it be within LCWP*
- *Outstanding permits – from OC Parks, the 4F permit, from the City of Laguna Beach – Coastal Development Permit. No discussion at this presentation. Natural Communities Coalition indicated that their board will not hear the NCCP issue until their June meeting, depending on available information.*
- *Caltrans noted that the delivery of the project must be by June 2, 2020*

In order for the CGA to take a position on the project it must reflect a positive impact on the habitat, wildlife and recreation use of LCWP. The CGA members could not make that finding with the updated project presentation. It was acknowledged that updated overall project meets more of the criteria used by CGA to evaluate a project. Appreciation was expressed to Caltrans for their willingness to work with the public agencies, nonprofits and public on this project. On a motion by Maloney with a second by Horne it was unanimously agreed to Receive and File the agenda item and place on the May 2020 agenda.

8. CGA MEMBERS COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time CGA members may comment on non-agenda matters and ask questions of staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Felder shared that a Memorial will be held for Carolyn Wood on April 26th from 3 to 5 at the Laguna Beach Women's Club. Fegraus noted that CGA's November meeting falls on Veteran's Day and that the meeting date should be changed.

9.. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT TO WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2020 AT 3 P.M.

On a motion by Horne and second by Fegraus the Announcements and Updates, and the Receive and File agenda items were unanimously approved to Receive and File.

On a motion by Maloney with a second by Felder adjournment to May 13, 2020 was unanimously approved. That meeting is tentatively scheduled to include a field trip and meeting at the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park visitor center.