

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023 — 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver, Vice Chair Ashland, and Commissioners Wellborn, Hanson, Jones, and Weigand were present.

II. 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.

Greg Stone, Orange County Modelers' Association, provided an update on the activities of the Association, their work with local schools, their support of local universities, and attendance of the upcoming Imaginology event.

III. 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 NOVEMBER 3, 2022 MEETING.

Motion: Commissioner Wellborn

2nd: Vice Chair Ashland

Approved 5-0-1 (Commissioner Weigand abstained)

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A-C)

A. ORANGE COUNTY BIRD OF PREY CENTER LEASE

The Orange County Bird of Prey Center (OCBPC) currently leases property owned by the County of Orange (County) located in the northwestern portion of O'Neill Regional Park. A new 10-year lease is proposed to allow for further improvements to the Leased Premises and events to provide funding for those improvements. Additionally, new terms are proposed, including allowing overnight onsite security, increased bird capacity onsite, and a resolution to authorize alcoholic beverage service on the Leased Premises for fundraising purposes. Staff will provide details on the proposed lease.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Interim Director, introduced staff and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, introduced the item, provided background information, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

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Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Entitlement Division Manager, provided information on the item, introduced staff from the OCBPC, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Peggy Chase, OCBPC Executive Director, provided information about OCBPC and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Dr. Scott Weldy, OCBPC Veterinarian, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the lease with the Orange County Bird of Prey Center.
2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the resolution to authorize alcoholic beverage service on the Leased Premises at O'Neill Regional Park pursuant to the terms of the lease with the Orange County Bird of Prey Center.

Motion: Vice Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Wellborn

Approved 6-0

B. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS, CHAIR APPOINTMENT, COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE CHAIR APPOINTMENT, AND MEETING AND TRAIL USE DESIGNATION PILOT PROJECT UPDATES

The OC Parks Trails Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") has two vacancies in membership. Two candidates are proposed for Commission approval to fill current vacancies on the Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Subcommittee Guidelines, the Commission will need to appoint the current Alternate Chair, Dave Shawver, to be the Subcommittee's Chair. The Commission will also need to appoint another Commissioner to serve on the Subcommittee, to fill Commissioner Koos' vacancy, and to serve as the Alternate Chair for the Subcommittee. Staff will also provide an update to the Commission regarding the December 12, 2022 Subcommittee meeting and an update on the Trail Use Designation Pilot Project.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Interim Director, introduced Natalia Gaerlan and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Natalia Gaerlan, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided background information on the item, an update on the Subcommittee's

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recent meeting, introduced Mike Wilson, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Business Manager, provided an update on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Appoint David Browning as a member of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Motion: Commissioner Wellborn

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 6-0

2. Appoint Michael Schoeck as a member of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 6-0

3. Appoint the current Alternate Chair, David Shawver, to be the Chair of the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Commissioner Wellborn

Approved 6-0

4. Nominate and select a Commissioner to serve on the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee as its Alternate Chair.

Nominate Commissioner Wellborn to serve on the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee as its Alternate Chair

Motion: Commissioner Hanson

2nd: Vice Chair Ashland

Approved 6-0

5. Receive and File Updates on the Fourth Quarter 2022 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Meeting and the Trail Use Designation Pilot Project.

Motion: Vice Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Wellborn

Approved 6-0

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C. APRIL FIELD TRIP

In November 2022, the Commission approved its 2023 meeting and field trip schedule. Pursuant to the 2023 meeting and field trip schedule, the field trip dates and locations would be selected in the month(s) preceding the field trip.

Proposed date options for a morning field trip:

1. Friday, April 14, 2023
2. Saturday, April 15, 2023

Proposed field trip location options:

1. Irvine Ranch Open Space – Saddleback Wilderness Area
2. Salt Creek Beach – Young's Beach Shack
3. Peters Canyon Regional Park

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided background information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Select a field trip date.
2. Select a field trip location.

Nomination of Commission Field Trip on Saturday, April 15, 2023 to the Irvine Ranch Open Space – Saddleback Wilderness Area

Motion: Commissioner Weigand

2nd: Vice Chair Ashland

Approved 6-0

V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pam Passow, OC Parks Interim Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

Wilderness Access Day: Black Star Canyon (+ Equestrian) – Saturday, March 4 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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- Black Star Canyon, part of OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, offers pleasant introductory trails for beginner hikers and families as well as challenging experiences for seasoned trail users. Designated trails will be open for self-guided hiking, biking and equestrian use.

Spring Bird Walk – Mile Square Regional Park – Saturday, March 4 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Join a gentle-paced walk to discover the many different types of birds that call Mile Square Regional Park their home. Bird watchers of all experience levels are welcome and loaner binoculars will be available.

Ducks Day at the OC Zoo – Irvine Regional Park – Saturday, March 4 – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- Wear your Ducks gear for free entry to the OC Zoo! Take your photo with an alumni player, receive fun Ducks-themed giveaways and see zoo animals up close.

Full Moon Hike in Peters Canyon – Tuesday, March 7 – 6 – 8 p.m.

- Come explore the nocturnal sights and sounds as we hit the trails on this leisurely night hike. Wear warm layers and sturdy footwear and bring water and a red filtered flashlight if possible to help keep your night vision from being impacted by any bright light.

Spring Fling Preschool Program – OC Zoo – Wednesday, March 15 – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

- Come learn about animals associated with springtime, including birds, insects, bunnies and more. Class includes hands-on learning, fun crafts and meeting zoo animals up close.

Photo Journey in Limestone Canyon: The Sinks, Loma Ridge Backcountry and Sunset – Sunday, March 19 – 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

- Join us in the back country wilderness for a journey filled with beautiful sights that are photographic and artistic sketching opportunities. Board a 4-wheel drive vehicle for a 13-mile tour of the canyon and surrounding hills. Stop frequently to admire the views, take photos, sketch landscapes and answer questions. Stops will include short walks with views of The Sinks, a trip up Cactus and Markel Spur, with optional hike routes available.

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Morning Yoga Hike in Baker Canyon – Irvine Ranch Open Space – Saturday, March 25 – 8 – 11 a.m.

- Enjoy a 3+ mile hike and gentle yoga practice in nature. The hike through Baker Canyon, part of OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, includes some elevation and will be a nice warm up for a gentle morning yoga flow under a shaded canopy.

Adventure Day – Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park – Saturday, April 15 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Adventure Day returns to Caspers Wilderness Park this April! Join OC Parks staff for a day filled with exciting games, guided hikes, and endless fun. Activities will include: live music performances, Charro horse riding and roping demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, Native American dancing, kids games, Kids Bike Rodeo for ages 12 and under, and equestrian ride with the ranger

Earth Day at the Bay – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Saturday, April 22 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- OC Parks and the Newport Bay Conservancy invite you to attend our annual celebration: Earth Day at the Bay! This free, family-friendly event features environmental-themed exhibits from community partners and local artists. Booths will feature activities which include arts and crafts, science discovery and educational information. There will be live music throughout the day as well as a scavenger hunt complete with prizes. Be sure to enter the opportunity drawing as well.

VI. COMMISSION 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.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 7:12 p.m.



Natural Community Conservation Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan Overview
Orange County Parks Commission – May 4, 2023



Overview



Oak woodlands are one of the protected native habitat types in the NCCP/HCP, Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

- Description of the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP)
- OC Parks acres in major conservation plans and easements
- OC Parks facilities in the NCCP/HCP
- How the NCCP/HCP affects management of OC Parks facilities

What is the NCCP/HCP?



Coastal California Gnatcatchers are federally-listed as threatened and are targeted for protection in the NCCP/HCP

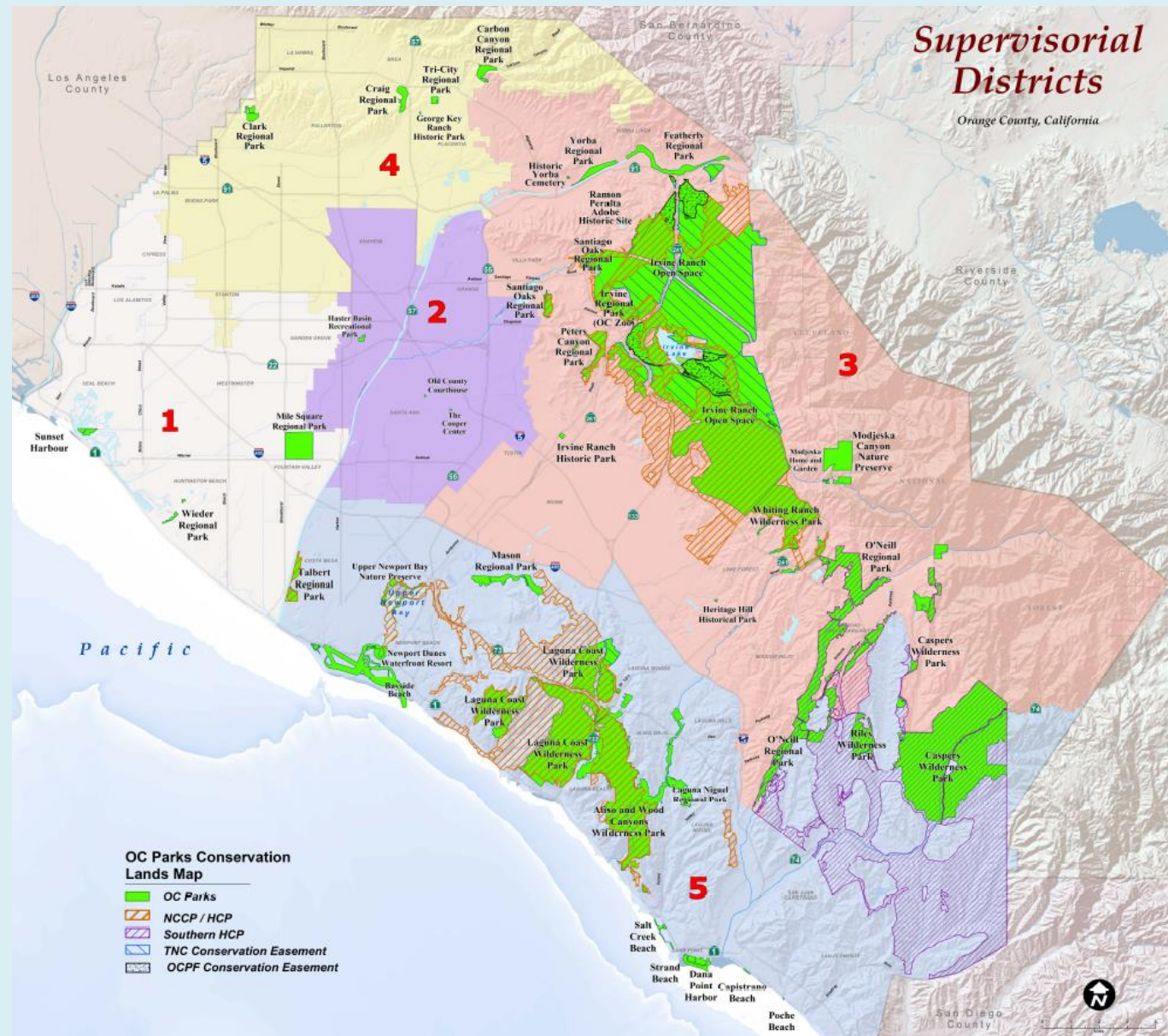
- A plan intended to provide regional protection and recovery of multiple native species and habitat types at a regional scale while allowing compatible land use, including passive recreation
- A 75-year permit (1996–2071) between wildlife agencies and 17 permittees, including the County

The County of Orange Central & Coastal Subregion Natural Community Conservation Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan

↑
“Natural Community”
makes it a state permit with
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
(CDFW)

↑
“Habitat”
makes it a federal permit with
US Fish & Wildlife Service
(USFWS)

How many OC Parks Acres are in Conservation Plans & Easements?



Natural Community Conservation Plan & Habitat Conservation Plan Overview
Orange County Parks Commission — May 4, 2023



How Does the NCCP/HCP Affect Park Management & Operations?



Coastal Sage Scrub and cliff and rock habitats are protected native habitat types in the NCCP/HCP, Irvine Ranch Open Space

- OC Parks must meet permit obligations intended to protect and promote conservation values by managing parks according to the NCCP/HCP.
- Only compatible uses are allowed and OC Parks must coordinate, track, and report all activities, and account for habitat “take.”

Key Points



Coastal Cactus Wrens are a target conservation species in the NCCP/HCP

- The NCCP/HCP is a 75-year permit with wildlife agencies, intended to protect and enhance conservation values.
- 40% of OC Parks-managed land is in the NCCP/HCP.
- Only compatible, permitted activities/uses are allowed in NCCP/HCP parks. OC Parks is required to coordinate, track, and report activities in these park, and account for negative habitat impacts with “take.”
- The Natural Communities Coalition (NCC) is a non-profit organization in place to administer and coordinate the NCCP/HCP.
- The major conservation plans and easements over Parks lands differ, but all place constraints on allowable land use and have compliance obligations for OC Parks.

Questions?



Tecate Cypress, Horned Lizards, Intermediate Mariposa Lilies, and Orange-Throated Whiptail Lizards are all species with conservation and management protections in the NCCP/HCP

ORANGE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Pam Passow, Interim Director, OC Parks

DATE: May 4, 2023

SUBJECT: OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Alternate Chair Appointment

Trails Subcommittee Alternate Chairperson Appointment

On April 7, 2016, the Orange County Parks Commission (Commission) voted to approve the creation of the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee (Subcommittee). Pursuant to the Subcommittee's Guidelines, the Subcommittee shall consist of seven regular members appointed by the Commission. Two of the members are Commissioners, appointed by the Commission, who serve as the Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson of the Subcommittee.

The Commission recently appointed a Commissioner to serve on the Subcommittee as its Alternate Chairperson but this seat has since become vacant. Pursuant to the Subcommittee Guidelines, two Commissioners must be a part of the Subcommittee's membership. With the Alternate Chairperson's seat on the Subcommittee now vacant, the Commission is tasked with appointing a new Alternate Chairperson for the Subcommittee.

Trails Subcommittee First Quarter 2023 Meeting Update

An update will be provided by staff on the First Quarter 2023 Subcommittee meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Nominate and select a Commissioner to serve on the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee as its Alternate Chair.
2. Receive and File updates on the First Quarter 2023 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Meeting.



Pam Passow