



A G E N D A & MINUTES
Approved September 8, 2021
COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY



Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Mary Feграus, 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

Ron Rivera, Parks/Recreation Director,

City of Laguna Niguel

Grace Leung, City Manager, City of Newport
Beach

Scott Smith, Deputy Director, Public Works

City of Irvine, Alternate

Vacant, City of Aliso Viejo, Alternate

Dennis Chiotti, Casey Gnad Alternates, City of Irvine

City of Newport Beach Alternates

Sean Levin, Deputy Director-Recreation/Sr. Services

Justin Schmillen – Recreation Manager

Voting Members

Mary Feграus, 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

Ed H. Tao, Alternate

City of Laguna Woods, Council Member

George Weiss, Alternate

City of Laguna Beach

Sergio Prince, Alternate

Board of Supervisors, 5th District

Gene Felder, Alternate

Member at Large

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, the Coastal Greenbelt Authority will be conducting its meeting remotely. While there will not be a physical location for the meeting, the public is invited to observe the meeting by

Dialing +1-415-655-0001

Using Access/Event Code 177 383 2571

or online at the link below

<https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=e00bcb0c8fba993d9dc72189a505a9022>

Using the password "#PARKS#"

Any member of the public wishing to speak should submit the following information no later than noon the day of the meeting to Matthew.Stegner@ocparks.com or 949-923-2258:

1. The email subject line or voicemail must state the following: Request to Provide Public Comment at Coastal Greenbelt Authority Meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.
2. Name of Person Requesting to Speak
3. Organization Represented or City of Residence
4. **Phone Number/ Screen name that will be used to access the meeting** (important)
5. Specify Agenda Item Number or Topic

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting shall notify OC Parks at 949-923-2258 or Matthew.Stegner@ocparks.com by 3pm on the Friday preceding the meeting. Please provide your name and contact phone number or email.

1. ROLL CALL

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. *No public participation on Non-Agenda Items.*

3. MINUTES

Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021 Corrections/Additions

Recommended Action: Approve meeting May 12, 2021 minutes or modifications as appropriate. *On a motion by Conners, with a second by Clark, the Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2021 were approved as is, with Iseman abstaining.*

4. CGA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- A. Laguna Canyon Foundation Update by a LCF representative. *Paula Olson, LCF Senior Director shared the following: looking to start the guided Discovery and Fitness hikes again – check the website for up to date information; no guided weekend hikes yet due to summer heat and crowds; there is a Berns Canyon Preserve monument sign at the entrance to the LCF complex in recognition of the \$1 million gift by Mr. and Mrs. Berns; Several restoration projects underway including Aliso Creek and Rattlesnake Trail, LCF will partner with OC Parks on upcoming restoration of Lizards Trail; Grade school field trips still in planning stage until it is determined which schools are in the classrooms; LCF will partner with Laguna Beach High School to sponsor a week of activities – Fire Land Ocean Water; LCF Ambassador Program at end of Alta Laguna Boulevard and the park every weekend/holiday from 7 to 10 a.m. and three hours before sunset to help educate the public about the parkland; most of the staff now working at the new LCF facility.*
- B. Natural Communities Coalition Update by a NCC representative. *Darin Loughrey shared the recent quarterly newsletter with features on the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Visitor Center and the Laguna Beach Dudleyea – noted thanks to the park rangers and to retired ranger Tom Maloney for information on the two*

topics; preparing to work on the Health Measurement of the Preserve; spadefoot toad project going well; and beginning the planning of 2021-24 activities.

- C. Update by City of Laguna Beach regarding open space in Laguna Beach. *Councilmember Iseman noted no new open space news; CGA member Fegraus asked Iseman to ask the city for a report on the status of the four parcels purchased by the city with CA Prop 12 funds that have not been leased to Orange County for inclusion and management by OC Parks.*
- D. Update regarding the City of Irvine's Open Space Preserve. *Scott Smith, Deputy Direct Public Works noted no information on status of Irvine Ranch Conservancy activities on the city's Open Space Preserve.*
- E. Update on the City of Newport Beach's Open Space. *Justin Schmillen, Recreation Manager noted the Buck Gully restoration continues; Big Canyon Project is nearing completion; Carissa Macias, formerly with the Newport Bay Conservancy, has joined the city's Natural Resources Department.*
- F. Update regarding Open Space from Aliso Viejo. *Not available at this time.*
- G. Update regarding Open Space from Laguna Niguel. *Ron Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director noted that on July 20th the city council will hear a staff report from police services regarding e-bikes information and current regulations; new trail maps and guides are available on the city's website and in print <https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/938/Trails> introduced Cathy Andgstadt, new Recreation Supervisor who helped develop the new maps and guides. Question by CGA members - if there have been any problems with illegal trails? No, but there has been some with trails being extended illegally.*

5. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

- A. Park Operations – All Departments Update *John Gannaway, OC Parks shared the Summer Concert and Movie series at the various parks; it was noted that the next CGA meeting could be in person unless there is a change in the Health Issues.*
- B. Spotlight on Laguna Coast Wilderness and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks: *Park staff will highlight recent accomplishments, activities and upcoming events.*

Special Note: *Tom Maloney announced that OC Parks received an official proclamation from the Orange County Board of Supervisors recognizing the 50th year of the Ranger title.*

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Update *Matt Stegner, Supervising Park Ranger shared the following: June 16th fire along the 73 burned approximately 11 acres, response was quick with equipment and personnel, established a bulldozer line which stopped the fire; currently restoring the dozer line; basic trail maintenance on Lizards Trail; Nix Nature Center is open to the public.*

Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Update *Brad Barker, Supervising Park Ranger shared the following recent recognitions: OC Parks Commission toured the new Visitor Center April 9th; OC Supervisor Bartlett presided over the May 4th Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Representatives from the Old Growth Forest Network on June 30th presented AWCWP a plaque noting the park's collection of 200-year-old oak and sycamore woodland, the recognition was a feature article in OC Register on July 13, 2021. Barker also noted that Tot Walks will resume in the Fall. In response to a question by Felder, Ranger Barker stated that the Laguna Beach County Water District did clean up all the graffiti at the Carolyn Wood Knoll and Jahraus Water Reservoir.*

C. Trails Update – No updates.

6. RECEIVE AND FILE MATTERS

- A. Report by Clark/Fegraus on Irvine Wildlife Corridor – Update on activities.
Recommended Action: Receive and File *Clark shared the June 25th Science Advisors seminar by Winston Vickers on his mountain lion research, the series will continue into the Fall – for more information - wildlifecorridor.org; Wildlife Corridor Team is preparing both virtual and in the future on the ground tours for the City of Irvine and other agencies; interns have assisted with social media outreach.*
- B. Update Caltrans Laguna Canyon Road Project.
Recommended Action: Receive and File *Eric Hull, OC Parks noted that CALTRANS will start to remove the k-rails along Laguna Canyon Road north of the 73 in mid-August. The project has included installation of safety guardrails, signage and pavement dots. Regarding the El Toro Road and Laguna Canyon Road intersection Hull noted no new information.*

Motion to Receive and File Agenda Items 6. A, B *On a motion by Maloney with a second by Conners it was unanimously agreed to Receive and File Agenda Items 6. A. and B.*

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Update on Pilot Project for Trail Use Designations in LCWP and AWCWP.
Recommended Action: Receive and forward CGA and public comments to OC Parks and Fifth District Supervisor
Public Comments included: Richard Hawthorne, long time hiker and mt. biker noted the trails are congested and dangerous, trails are degrading, mt. bikers are altering trails and creating new trails, YouTube has video of aggressive actions by mt. bikers, pilot trail

project was crafted for mt. bikers, doesn't solve problems, poorly planned and executed but there are solutions, conflicted interests by OC Parks committees. Number 1 priority is that everyone should be entitled to use trails safely.

Joseph Hawes, avid hiker and mt. biker noted trail congestion does cause safety concerns, pilot program seems successful, one-way trails do help.

Pam Passow, OC Parks provided the following update on the Pilot Trail Use Project: In May Utah State assessed the trails and terrain, conducted user survey; June 1st official project start date; July 1st citations could be given but only as advisements; ocparks.com website has all the reports, survey form; project will now run into December with evaluation to follow. Passow noted that brochures/maps and signage are at the park entrance and beginning and end of each project trail. There will be counters on the trails to gather more data. Questions by CGA members: review of pilot project rules, any collection on mt. bike speed? No. How often does the Trails Subcommittee meet? Quarterly.

On a motion by Conners with a second by Iseman this information will be provided to the CGA members, and the item continued to the September 8, 2021 Coastal Greenbelt Authority meeting. Approved unanimously.

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. Fegraus noted that informative and interesting newsletters are available from Laguna Canyon Foundation – paula@lagunacanyon.org , Natural Communities Coalition – dloughrey@occonservation.org and OC Parks Laura.Cohen@ocparks.com . Please contact them to be included in the distribution.

Discussion regarding next meeting – virtual or in-person, where to have the meeting, also if members were agreeable to a Pectin Reef field trip on a non-regular meeting date? – Yes.

9. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT to September 8, 2021 at 3 P.M. Location to be Determined. *On a motion by Fegraus with a second by Iseman it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. to Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 3 p.m. with the location/type of meeting to be determined.*