

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Orgill, Clark, Maloney, Moore, Osborne, Horne, and Felder were present. Members Foley, Litschi, and Weiss 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.

Prior to Agenda Item III, Chair Fegraus and Authority members welcomed Kelly Osborne as the Alternate Member for Supervisor Foley.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM 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 NOVEMBER 9, 2022 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to approve

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Hallie Jones, LCF Executive Director, shared the following: large focus on invasive plant growth caused by the rain; dealing with issues of herbicides; Trail to Sea concept is moving forward with LCF contract with the City of Laguna Beach to study alternative routes — project will require Coastal Commission approval — \$250,000 bond by The Ranch has been held by the City of Laguna Beach to develop a trail site — study scheduled for June completion.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Member Orgill, Laguna Beach City Councilmember, shared the following: Request For Proposals will be due by late March for the Laguna Canyon Road widening and undergrounding of utilities; issues of concern for the

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extension of SB 9; question of ability of Laguna Beach to acquire properties next to parcels not developed yet.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, NCC Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following: part of implementing the NCCP/HCP is understanding the public's concept of the program — NCC has just completed a public polling survey to understand the value of open space to the public. The survey contained questions of how open space affects their quality of life — air and water quality, value of the agencies managing the open space, health benefits. 60% approval of open space now, greater percentage of users are hikers. The data will provide land managers and public agencies ideas to help with their land management policies, working with the data to show summaries for each city surveyed. Noted feedback from the US Geological Survey that the spadefoot toad population is thriving.

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Casey Gnadt, City of Irvine Open Space Administrator, shared the following: preserve closed today, many low areas are underwater, many repairs from rain damage — mostly utility roads, all will be repaired for hiking use, high vegetation expected from so much rain; plan to complete in the next quarter all the manual pedestrian gates with flip down signs; serial tagger has damaged a large number of signs.

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 Supervisor, introduced himself and stated that he will be providing future City information for Authority; noted his responsibilities include the City's open space and botanical preserve.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Kelly

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

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

John Gannaway, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: Beginning March 1, 2023, the City of Laguna Beach will assume ownership of all South Laguna beaches and coastal properties from the County of Orange. As part of the transfer agreement, the County is providing the City with a one-time sum of \$22 million to offset the added cost of providing services and beach maintenance. This includes Aliso Beach. The OC Parks Commission has two new commissioners: Hallie Jones, representing the Fifth District, and Erik Weigand, representing the Coastal Cities; Chair Fegraus noted that so far her research shows that Hallie Jones is the first Laguna Beach resident to serve on the OC Parks Commission; the lease for the OC Bird of Prey Center in O'Neill Park has been extended and the Center has plans for expanding.

Chair Fegraus noted that John Gannaway is retiring from OC Parks this month. His service and commitment to the County's park system has been exemplary. The Authority members wished him best wishes for retirement and many thanks and appreciation for his service.

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: more than 18 inches of rain so far this season, have been looking at the impacted areas and are trying to figure out the best drainage solutions; LCWP is open but staff is being careful about driving on trails; communicating with City of Irvine staff about the conditions of their trails; Laura Cohen, Resource Specialist is retiring March 20th after 16 years at LCWP, the position remains in the LCWP budget, recruiting will start in a few weeks but it could be months before the position is filled.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: some trail damage from the rain; working on watershed in front of Aliso Creek, East Trail; at West Ridge a problem with erosion of a pipe that exposed wiring — working with Laguna Beach County Water District to repair the damage and erosion; BMP project in progress but slowed down by the rain — project involves erosion control devices — sand bags, geo

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logs, silt and sock fencing, and k-rails to deter runoff into Aliso Creek; maintenance staff, Ian Kearny has been promoted and will work at Yorba Linda Regional Park.

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 (ITEMS A–F)

A. TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS PILOT PROJECT IN LCWP AND AWCWP UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project occurring within LCWP and AWCWP.

Richard Fink, OC Parks Interim Deputy Director of Operations, shared the following: OC Parks is still waiting for the Environmental and Ecological Addendum from Utah State University. This final part of the project will probably be available in late March or early April and will be shared with the Authority.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Member Horne

Unanimous vote to Receive and File the report

B. CITY OF IRVINE OPEN SPACE PLAN PRESENTATION

Staff from the City of Irvine Open Space Preserve will give a presentation regarding its habitat protection and use guidelines. This Information will enable discussion of potential methods for habitat sustainability in areas within the subject area of the Authority including the Authority's review of the current planning documents for LCWP and AWCWP.

Casey Gnad, City of Irvine Open Space Administrator, shared the following: presented a summary of the City of Irvine Open Space Acquisition since 1988 and the current Management Practices. The city is a 1996 signatory to the (State) Natural Community Conservation Plan/(Federal) Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). Created Recreation and Resource

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Management Plans (RRMP) for Open Space in the South (5,000 acres) in 1998 and North (1,700 acres) in 2009. Irvine's Open Space Program Goals include: Manage Safe Recreational Opportunities for Public Enjoyment — Trails Management, Access Programs, Maximize Ecological Benefits — Early detection of invasive plants, disease and pests; Minimize Fire Intensity — Fire spread modeling, strategic vegetation management. 32 miles of Trails with either 7-day access or programed access. Open Space Team — Administrator (Public Works and Transportation), Open Space Landscape Specialist (Public Works and Transportation), Open Space Ranger (Public Safety), Police Department, Community Services Manager, IRC Contract Staff. Wildfire Awareness Campaign — 5 Prong Preparedness Plan — 1. Conduct Wildfire Ignition, Spread and City Impact assessments, 2. Establish Decision Points for Evacuation Triggers, 3. Establish Police Department Evacuation Procedures, 4. Identify evacuation routes and analyze traffic flow models, 5. Identify care and reception centers. In 2023 started the Know Before You Go campaign — know the weather, what to bring, trail status, where you are (Milestone Markers) and how to get help.

Authority members thanked Gnadt for sharing this information again, noted it will be helpful as the CGA looks at updating the governing documents for LCWP and AWCWP.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Horne

Unanimous vote to Receive and File

C. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

City of Laguna Beach Staff will share an update on its Laguna Canyon Road Improvement Project following a report presented at the November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting.

No new information.

Public comment: Penny Milne shared that their neighborhood survey indicated a high value for protection of open space. Wants to be sure the public and the Laguna Canyon neighborhood have an opportunity for comments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

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Motion: Member Clark

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File

D. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD WIDENING AND SAFETY PROJECT UPDATE

OC Parks Staff will share an update on Caltrans' Laguna Canyon Road Widening and Safety Project.

Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Entitlement Division Manager, shared the following: there has been a recent agreement and permit for an easement on OC Parks property; he will be attending future CALTRANS construction meetings.

Comments and questions from the public and Authority members included questions about the driveway from El Toro Road to Anneliese property ownership, mitigation, report, zoning, chain link fences, lack of communications with the public; how the construction happening now was evaluated; why CALTRANS did not make another presentation after their one in 2019 to Authority; noted old Pump Station now exposed along Laguna Canyon Road — can this be reclaimed as a historic site?

Discussion of a letter from Authority to CALTRANS by Authority. Agreed to send a letter with request that OC Parks and City of Laguna Beach representatives be included in the construction meetings and that CALTRANS make a presentation to Authority with the final construction plans

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Alternate Member Horne

Unanimous to Receive and File the Report and send a letter to CALTRANS

E. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

Receive information about the Science Advisors series, Partner Charter, and other activities.

Member Clark shared the following: recent Wildlife Corridor activities: applaud City of Irvine for including the wildlife corridor in the section of the Great Park in their general plan; working on signatures for the Partner Charter; successful and interesting wildlife corridor tour for UCI graduate students by John Foley and Mary Fegraus. Comment by Member Fegraus

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that it was uplifting to see the interest and knowledge of the wildlife corridor issue here and across the United States by the graduate students.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to Receive and File the report

F. HABITAT SUSTAINABILITY AND LCWP TRAIL MAP REVIEW FIELD TRIP

Authority Members will discuss plans for a field trip during the Authority's May 10, 2023 Meeting to the OC Parks trails available from the Woods End entrance at El Toro Road.

Discussion about the details of the tour. Agreed to meet at the Nix Nature Center to start the meeting — minutes and any time-sensitive reports, then have a vehicle tour. OC Parks staff will arrange the vehicles, important to have a count for the tour section of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File.

Motion: Member Maloney

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to approve the field trip

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 March 8, 2023 meeting agenda.

Kelly Osborne, Alternate Member for Supervisor Foley, shared her background: current Laguna Beach school board member, has lived 10 years in the Top of the World area in Laguna Beach and before that in Aliso Viejo near the parkland, environmental educator for Tustin and Laguna Beach school districts — very familiar with the wilderness parks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO MAY 10, 2023

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

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Unanimous vote to adjourn.



DAY USE:
7:00 A.M. - SUNSET
PARKING:
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

WILDERNESS PARK

7000 ACRES OF SOMETHING NEW • SEE AN ORANGE-THROATED WHIPTAIL
GO ON A NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT • ENJOY PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEWS

