

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Public Participation was reopened after Item IV.G.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to approve reopening Public Participation after Item IV.G

Erin Andreatta, Crystal Cove Conservancy Program Manager, commented on: Finalized funding for the last of the cottage restorations; Education programs will include more science/environmental literacy with activities like "Explore the Cove", cruise for older students with emphasis on Marine Protected Areas; also Art through Conservation working with the Laguna Art Museum to illustrate the connection between art and environmental science. Member Osborne noted that the new cultural education requirement for our schools will provide an opportunity for CCC to share the Japanese culture and history of this area

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 MARCH 12, 2025 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

Unanimous vote to approve

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

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Item IV.A was heard after Item IV.D.

Scott Thomas, LCF Executive Director, shared the following: Educational Field trips for school year 2024–2025 included 74 trips with more than 3,500 students, all free for the school districts with the last field trip March 14th. For the new school year LCF will reach out to the Title One school districts and also to Laguna Beach.

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Authority members Osborne and Norton have assisted with meetings with the Laguna Beach School District.

Outreach: The LCF Speaker series at the Susie Q Center have been very popular with the Birds and Native Plant topics.

LCF is working with the Sawdust Festival coordinating an Art in the Park program on May 31 and June 21 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at LCF headquarters. Also introducing a Heroes of the Night about bats at Laguna Coast (LCWP) and Aliso and Wood Canyons (AWCWP) Wilderness Parks on July 26 and September 27. All the events are on the LCF website.

LCF is discussing the continued partnership with OC Parks for updating the interpretative exhibits at the Nix Nature Center (NNC). LCF Board members will meet at the NNC on May 15th and have an opportunity to review the exhibits.

Restoration Trail Days with volunteers include rock work and a drainage feature at the Old Emerald Trail, Rocket and decommissioning the Nose trail in Los Trancos.

Big Trail Fundraiser on June 14th, more information can be found on their website.

Ten-year project at AWCWP completed with Arundo, removed from 55 acres near Pectin Reef. Final sign-off of completed restoration.

Working with the Laguna Beach Fire Department on evaluating expansion of the fuel modification zones along the AWCWP edge.

LCF has submitted an application for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to fund a 61-acre habitat restoration and enhancement project. Discussion by Authority members to include a letter of support for the project in our July agenda.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

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.

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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, shared the following: Trail events continue into June; “Living with Wildlife” presentation sponsored by the cities of Laguna Niguel and Mission Viejo Animal Services on Tuesday, June 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Crown Valley Community Center.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Norton

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

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: County of Orange fiscal update – hiring freeze through the end of the fiscal year (June) for all departments.

The May 1st Park Ranger Academy graduation of 10 trainees who are now in their six weeks Field Program which will end June 12, then the recruits are assigned to permanent park facilities. It was noted that our parks are still short three positions.

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: Regarding Pacific Pocket Mouse projects – there is one active site at Water Tank with 50 new mice released on April 28th. Previously observed 23 mice showing a good increase in the healthy population.

Fire Training – Orange County Fire Authority and Huntington Beach Fire have been using LCWP for fire training.

Recent tour assistance with sharing wildlife crossings under the 133 and 73 with the Laguna Greenbelt and their wildlife corridor consultants.

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Park attendance in accordance so far for 200,000 visitors per year.

Staff vacancies include Part-time Park Attendant and Ranger II – both positions are in the process of fulfillment.

Rainfall to date – just over 8 inches.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: Changes in staff include: Adam's promotion to Supervising Ranger II and reassignment to Laguna Niguel Regional Park but will also continue to oversee the overall operation of AWCWP. Annelise Gannaway has been transferred from Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park to AWCWP as on-site, day-to-day supervision of operations. AWCWP is currently short 2 positions – Park Maintenance Worker II and one Park Ranger. Typically, AWCWP is staffed with a Supervising Park Ranger (currently Annelise Ganaway) and two Park Rangers. Currently Park Ranger II Nicole Chambers fills one position but the other remains vacant.

Under the direction of the Resource Specialist the invasives – mustard, tree tobacco, and other invasives have been removed in Five Oaks section with restoration efforts including new planting and fences.

New U-Polaris vehicle equipped with code-3 lights and siren.

Ranger staff working with Orange County Sheriff's Department on the homeless issue, not just to remove them but to help the homeless receive care.

As a response to an Authority member's question it was noted that OC Parks staff continue to work with others regarding the illegal trail use in the Top of the World area near Nestall Road.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Norton

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

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–F)

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

The City of Laguna Beach will consider 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.

There were not any representatives from the City of Laguna Beach, but Chair Fegraus presented an overview of the issue.

Penelope Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, provided an update on a city council meeting that addressed this subject and stated that the city council had approved a few tasks to look into this issue but did not approve a decibel study.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file 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.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

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.

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, read an email from Southern California Edison stating that their activities will be completed by June. Weekly call

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meeting will start again with CALTRANS. Authority Members noted that we are willing to write a letter of support for completing the project as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

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.

No updates on the Project at this time. Authority member indicated Laguna College of Art and Design might have received funding for the project but no confirmation as of yet.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

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: Planning Phase is officially underway for the Wildlife Corridor with the April gathering of the team and primary consultants (Robert Rock Design Team). Activities included recent tour of 133/73 undercrossing/wildlife corridors, tour of pinch points for camera study consultants, larger meeting planned of consultants and advisors from across the state, initiate intensified camera study at pinch points; working with others to improve existing wildlife corridors within the 22,000 acre park system. The Annenberg Wildlife Corridor tour awaits CALTRANS selection of a date.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

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Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

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.

Chair Fegraus noted that Members Norton and Clark and Chair Fegraus continue to work on the Addendums. Focus is on items useful for the future of LCWP but also retaining the history. It was suggested that the July meeting be held at the Nix Nature Center with the Addendums as the primary agenda topic

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 to continue the item: Member Norton

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to continue the item.

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 May 14, 2025 meeting agenda.

Chair Fegraus asked Member Osborne to share her work with school districts and the recent California Green Ribbon School Award for the Laguna Beach School District. Member Osborne works with three school districts, eight schools, teaching environmental science including the standards, and implementing school gardens.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO JULY 9, 2025 MEETING 4:34 p.m.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the July 9, 2025 meeting.

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

July 10, 2025

Wildlife Conservation Board
P. O. Box 944209
Sacramento CA 94244-2090

WCB@wildlife.ca.gov

Regarding: Support for Laguna Canyon Foundation's Parcel 5 Phase 1 Habitat Restoration Project

Chair Bonham and Wildlife Conservation Board Members:

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.

Our July 9, 2025 agenda included a presentation by Laguna Canyon Foundation about their Parcel 5 Phase 1 Habitat Restoration initiative. The restoration project reflects the habitat restoration on natural lands that adjoin our 22,000-acre south coast wilderness. The project will remove invasive species and reseed with appropriate native species restoring 3 acres of coastal sage scrub, 8 acres of cactus scrub and 3 acres of riparian scrub.

The CGA members voted to send a letter of support to your Board for the Laguna Canyon Foundation's funding request.

The project is a continuation of collaboration between public agencies and nonprofit organizations working together to preserve federal and state listed species while restoring ecological functions to our preserved lands.

Please fund the Laguna Canyon Foundation's grant request for the Parcel 5 Phase 1 Habitat Restoration project. Thank you.

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
Scott Thomas, Executive Director, Laguna Canyon Foundation

2025 Addendum Part 1 to the
1998 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park General Development and Resource Management Plans
Draft 8

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 and Laguna Beach County Water District, are located within LCWP perimeter but operate 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.

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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
- 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.
- 1988 California Proposition 70 passed, allowing for the purchase of Carolyn Wood Knoll at Top of the World.
- Preservation of the Carman Sandling development of "Honda Hills" – still needs research 1980s*
- 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 |

Include reference map of parcels

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The Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement ended June 30, 1995 with a lack of \$33 million funding for the 5th Option - 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.
- 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.
- 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 chart of acquired parcels with parcel leased data as a reference chart.

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- 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.
- 2007 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Haun 10.45-acre parcel, the Jaysu 27.92-acre parcel, the Stonefield 50.37-acre parcel and the Chao 58.4-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcels to the County of Orange for management as part of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
- 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 Proposition 12 Acquisitions

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 includes LCWP
- 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

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- 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 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 and expired in 2023.
- 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

Date? County of Orange and Newport Coast Development Agreement (Boat Road)

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

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
- 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

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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.

New Legal Access Points – need new Staging Areas (Parking) and Trail Access Maps and to include in References a link to OCParks website

- At the time of the 1993 opening of LCWP there were four 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.
- 2025 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 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.

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Trails – *Include in Reference a website link to the latest trails map*

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

New 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 – starts 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, 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

Renamed Areas

- Laguna Laurel – this was the original name of the proposed development. Laurel Canyon is a 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.

Fire Prevention

In 1995 the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) was established as a Joint Powers Authority and has LCWP and adjoining parkland in its oversight. They developed a Fuel and Plant Palette for the Nix Nature Center buildings and the Willow facility.

Within the agreements the NCCP/HCP program has 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.

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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 monitoring of Barbara's Lake, the Main Corridor, and Stagecoach North conducted, monitored and catalogued by volunteers.*

IV. Park Information and Signage

The following signs designate trail use and park etiquette. 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 LCWP. Camping is not permitted in LCWP. This information appears on kiosks, maps, websites and at all authorized public access sites.

Include current signage photos.

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 reproduced on 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. LCF should have them.

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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.

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 little to no cost to the schools or students.

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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 include 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 such topics as bobcats, birding, seasonal plants, physical fitness, geology, bats, insects, general discovery, and holiday events that encourage them to explore the outdoors as they participate in the chosen topic of interest. 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 the event <https://lagunacanyon.org/events/>

Goals Moving Forward -

- Renew Agreement 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. Volunteers are welcome.
- Continue to provide website links for studies done through the NCCP/HCP program, universities, public and nonprofit organizations.
- Preserve Historical Wildlife database from camera studies. Important to continue this activity under the direction of the Resource Specialist.
- Coordinate all studies with the OC Parks Natural Resources Team.
- Implement restoration projects as a result of studies.
- Address Question of Trail Management – how to manage large number of trail users. Recognizing the population of Orange County at the time of the park’s creation, what it is now and what it might be in the future. How can we maintain the integrity of the park as the human impact increases?
- Acknowledge the importance of the existing wildlife corridors along Laguna Canyon Road. Provide regular maintenance of wildlife corridors utilizing the latest technology for wildlife corridors. Complete proper wildlife fencing along the 73 and 133 routes. Be aware of possible new

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undercrossing or overcrossings strategically placed such as at Big Bend and Laguna Canyon Road.

- 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 keep the connections viable to their open space jurisdictions.
- 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.*
- Maintain and fill the previously approved additional Park Range 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.
- Maintain no park visitor motorized vehicles in LCWP including e-bikes of all classes.
- Within Parcel 5, support the Nature Conservancy easement, to maintain a wildlife refuge without public access.
- Support essential wildlife studies and wildlife corridor linkages integral to the preservation of the natural lands.