



A G E N D A and Minutes COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY



Wednesday, November 13, 2019

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
Christa Johnson, Alternate
City of Laguna Beach, Assistant City Manager
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

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, September 11, 2019. Corrections/Additions

Recommended Action: Approve meeting minutes or modifications as appropriate. *The Minutes of September 11, 2019, as presented, were approved unanimously on a motion by Conners with a second by Fegraus.*

4. CGA MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- A. Update by Laguna Canyon Foundation by a LCF representative. *Hallie Jones, Executive Director shared that LCF has moved into their new headquarter on Phillips Road off Laguna Canyon Road. There is limited parking and the number of events that can be held there. The facility has a large conference room. LCF is working with the City of Laguna Beach on the Caltrans project – many positive changes to the plan.*
- B. Update by Natural Communities Coalition by a NCC representative. *Jim Sulentich, Executive Director and Danny Fry, Wildland Fire Management Coordinator shared the following: Milan Mitrovich has left NCC; NCC, in collaboration with its partners and the Wildlife Agencies, NCC was awarded a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to restore western spadefoot toad habitat at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Crystal Cove State Park.
-Western spadefoot toad is considered a species at risk of extinction, and is a conserved species in the Central-Coastal Subregion of Orange County NCC/HCP.
-Field work started November 11, 2019, with pond construction and weed control, which will be followed by cactus planting in the next few weeks.
-Maintenance and monitoring of the restoration sites will continue to March 2022.*
- C. Update by City of Laguna Beach regarding open space in Laguna Beach. *Iseman shared that the city is working with Caltrans with positive changes to the Laguna Canyon Road project. She noted that Carolyn Wood recently passed – memories were shared about her commitment to the preservation of open space.*
- D. Update on the City of Irvine's Open Space Preserve. *Baird shared the following: Irvine Ranch Conservancy noted that from July – December there were 145 events and wilderness park attendance of 1,230, 46% were Irvine residents; restoration activities in Bommer and Shady Canyons; city is working with 5 Pt to remove non-natives in the wildlife corridor area.*
- E. Update on the City of Newport Beach's Open Space. *Not available at this time*

- F. Update regarding Open Space from Aliso Viejo. *Phillips noted that the city continues work on the Ranch project; great concern about the pest affecting the sycamore trees.*
- G. Update regarding Open Space from Laguna Niguel. *Rivera noted that a new Trail program is planned for 2020 Spring and Summer; progress with the new Community Building with a soft opening planed for January and a June Public Opening.*

5. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATE

- A. Park Operations – All Departments Update – *Noted that the new budget does include plan updates for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.*
- 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 reported new staff, Ken Strader.*
Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Update: *Senior Park Ranger Barker noted the Visitor Center is now open with the interpretive exhibits to be completed in a year; fuel modification throughout the park; pavement project at the Awma Road resulting in some trail and parking lot closures.; replacing steps and correcting drainage within the Wood Creek area.*

6. RECEIVE AND FILE MATTERS

- A. Recommended Action: Receive and File the September 11, 2019 presentation of the Irvine Wildlife Camera Monitoring Study Report by Kevin Clark, Director of Biological Services at the San Diego Natural History Museum and John Foley, Board member, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. and field data collector.
The report is available for Download at:
<https://ocwildlifecorridor.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/irvine-corridor-camera-analysis-report-final-aug-28-2019-2.pdf>

Motion by Conners, with a second by Iseman to Receive and File the September 11, 2019 Irvine Wildlife Camera Monitoring Study Report. Approved unanimously.
- B. Status report on CALTRANS Safety Lane project and Additional Laguna Canyon Road project.
Recommended Action: Receive and File
Report by CALTRANS staff illustrating a number of changes to the project components: 4 components include Drainage, Safety, Visual and Bicycle Lane. It was noted the new pre-school traffic plan, changes in merge lanes near Willow Canyon Staging area, vegetated utility pull-outs. Next steps include permits, appraisals and supplemental EIR. It was noted that CALTRANS will return to the CGA with more refined plans.

On a motion by Conners, with a second by Iseman the Update was unanimously approved to Receive and File.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Review Letter regarding the Irvine Wildlife Corridor Study Report to the landowners of the coastal 22,000-acre wilderness parks and preserves.

Recommended Action: Approve distribution of the letter to the County of Orange and cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods. *On a motion by Conners with a second by Iseman it was unanimously approved to distribute the Letter regarding the Irvine Wildlife Corridor Study Report to the County of Orange and cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods.*

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 she will be away for the January meeting.*

9.. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT TO WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020 AT 3 P.M. *On a motion by Fegraus and second by Conners, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the Coastal Greenbelt Authority to its meeting of January 8, 2020.*