

Appendix C

Community Forums Summary Report

COUNTY OF ORANGE HARBORS, BEACHES AND PARKS
STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Forums Summary Report

Prepared for
County of Orange Harbors, Beaches and Parks

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INTRODUCTION

Harbors, Beaches and Parks held five community forums in the months of June and July to provide members of the general public with an opportunity to participate in the strategic planning process. These public meetings were designed both to inform people about HBP and to offer them opportunities to share their ideas for the future of the regional park system managed by HBP. A community forum was scheduled in each of the County's five supervisorial districts, with a County of Orange Supervisor hosting each of the meetings (see schedule and locations below). A total of 228 people attended the five forums.

Each forum began with an open house, followed by a presentation on the history and current circumstances of HBP. Afterwards, during interactive small group discussions, participants expressed their thoughts regarding what they believed should be the future priorities of HBP. The forum concluded with a facilitated open discussion among all participants.

COMMUNITY FORUM #1

Date – June 19, 2006

Location - The Upper Newport Bay Nature Reserve – Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, Newport Beach

Host – Jim Silva, Supervisor 2nd District

COMMUNITY FORUM #2

Date: June 27, 2006

Ralph B. Clark Regional Park – Paleontology Museum, Buena Park

Host - Chris Norby, Supervisor 4th District

COMMUNITY FORUM #3

Date: June 28, 2006

Location: Old County Courthouse, Santa Ana

Host: Lou Correa, Supervisor 1st District

COMMUNITY FORUM #4

Date: July 6, 2006

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center, Laguna Hills

Host: Thomas W. Wilson, Supervisor 5th District

COMMUNITY FORUM #5

Date: July 12, 2006

Location: Irvine Regional Park, Orange

Host: Bill Campbell, Supervisor 3rd District

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR THEMES

Although participants in the community forums spoke at five separate, widely dispersed locations in Orange County, they expressed many of the same ideas and concerns regardless of the location. What was heard in each forum was remarkably consistent from meeting to meeting. The only differences were local issues specific to each supervisorial district, involving a particular opportunity or facility located in that district. These seeming differences, however, typically represent local examples of the broader issues shared by all five districts

At each of the five meetings, participants were presented with potential concepts for a new vision and mission statement. These concepts had emerged during preceding steps in the strategic planning process. During this phase information was collected to assess the current state of HBP, the environment in which it operates, and its potential opportunities in the future, as seen from a broad range of perspectives. This process included separate interviews with each Supervisor, as well as interviews with senior HBP staff and other key stakeholders. Input was also provided through active participatory group exercises in meetings with a Strategic Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee and workshops with HBP staff. Preliminary concepts to come out of this series of information gathering activities were then tested and refined through the community forums.

During each of the community forums, comments expressed by participants were in response to three basic questions, which provided a consistent format for each meeting:

- *Given what you heard in the presentation, what are your impressions of what HBP does? Were you surprised in any way?*
- *Do the vision and mission concepts align with what you believe the County should be doing? What would you change, add or delete, if anything?*
- *What are the top three things you believe HBP should be doing to make these Vision concepts a reality?*

The following is a synopsis of the major ideas and themes expressed by participants throughout the five community forums. This overview is from the perspective of the participants who expressed their ideas and opinions during the forums.

The wide variety of issues and themes discussed during these meetings fall into two broad categories. The first category involves the areas of action that participants wish to see HBP involved. The second category concerns how best to be organized to carryout these activities.

Areas for Action

This section portrays those issues and opportunities that participants wish to see HBP focus its attention and resources.

Stewardship - Stewardship is seen as a core HBP responsibility. Emphasis was placed upon the concept that the resources to be managed, protected, and enhanced, must be clearly identified, and these include not just natural/environmental resources, but also cultural and historic ones.

Education and stewardship - Education is seen as an integral part of the stewardship responsibility. To ensure that these resources are passed on as a legacy from the present to the future, it is critical that each generation recognizes and appreciates their intrinsic value. This can be achieved through interpretive programs designed to increase public awareness and appreciation for the full range of natural, cultural, and historic resources in Orange County. Educational programs translate into public support and the creation of new future stewards of these public assets.

Archeological and paleontological collections - There are tremendous educational, scientific, aesthetic, scholarly and economic value in the archeological and paleontological collections, but their potential value and benefit to the County lies untapped from the lack of funding and personnel to implement an adequate program. It is critical that these collections be properly cared for and catalogued, and that they be “taken out of the boxes” where they are now and be made available to the public. Many suggested the creation of a natural and cultural history museum.

Acquisition of new open space - Open space, including the regional park system, was seen as integral to Orange County’s quality of life, its natural environment, and its economy. All of these are threatened if open space is unnecessarily sacrificed in response to short-term, inadequately planned development pressures. The need for open space and additional parks will continue to increase as the population grows, but that future need will be unmet if current opportunities to acquire additional public lands are missed. For these reasons, the acquisition of new open space is a critical, present-day opportunity that cannot be postponed for the future. This view was expressed in all five supervisorial districts, but was especially urgent in the north Orange County districts. There is fear that continuing reliance on HBP to help resolve the County’s financial problems is at the price of meeting this critical long-term priority, and that creative financial/funding solutions are needed to resolve this dilemma. Although most would like to see current financial resources re-allocated to support acquisitions, none were willing to do so if it was at the expense of maintaining existing open spaces and parks.

Natural resources management - The management of natural resources should be focused on both habitat protection and restoration, including maintaining the wilderness character of open space lands where it still exists. Many asserted HBP could more effectively fulfill this responsibility by working in partnership with other landowners, both public and private, and by taking advantage of existing environmental regulations, including those linked to water quality and watershed management.

Recreation - HBP can help find ways to meet the recreation needs of a growing population but it must develop solutions compatible with its stewardship responsibilities. The desired goal is a premier recreation system in balance with the preservation of habitat and wilderness areas. Finding this balance requires working in close partnership with local cities, schools and other partners, each providing a different array of recreational services, to meet this growing demand. Assessing the capacity of the regional parks to meet increased demands is also recommended. Thinking of stewardship, education and recreation as complementary elements of single holistic system was proposed as a guiding principle.

Access and connections – Improving access to the park system was seen as one important way to help meet the recreation needs of County residents, but especially in north Orange County. This includes completing the Orange County bike and trail network by eliminating all gaps in that system, making it possible to walk or bike between parks or even to travel across the County along the trail system from the mountains to the ocean. To complete the trail system as planned, many hoped more vigorous steps would be taken to guard against encroachments along planned trail routes, and that acquisition opportunities for both new trails and parks would be pursued when they become available, especially in North Orange County. Another way to address the north/south park imbalance was to provide frequent transit service from communities in the north to parks in south Orange County, especially on weekends and holidays.

Organized for Action

The following summarizes recommendations made by participants on how HBP should be organized to achieve its mission and vision for the future.

Partnerships and leadership - In order for HBP to adequately fulfill its stewardship responsibilities, it needs to become more pro-actively engaged with other institutions and the community at-large. By itself, even with increased funding and a larger staff, HBP cannot meet all the environmental and recreational needs of Orange County. As a result, greater collaboration, including working partnerships, with other public and

private organizations, such as local cities, other county, state and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, is required. In order to create these partnerships and meet its other goals, many asserted HBP should assume a more high-profile facilitative leadership role. Such leadership might also require that HBP examine whether there were habits of thinking and behavior in its organizational culture that had worked well for staff in the past, but if unchanged could inhibit this more pro-active leadership role in the future. If so, a culture change within HBP would be needed, enabling it to more easily launch initiatives, and to be more responsive to local community requests for assistance. Most important, HBP should be more actively engaged in the process of building constituencies for the park system through its educational and marketing programs, and by the expansion of its volunteer corp.

Organizational independence – Many believe HBP needs to once again become an autonomous, independent agency, if it is to assume a leadership role and effectively carryout its stewardship mission. As it did in the past, organizational independence will place it in a stronger position to protect and preserve the regional park system, by providing it with more direct access to the Board of Supervisors, the CEO, as well as with other agencies and organizations, and the community-at-large. It will also ensure the more effective utilization and protection of its financial resources, through better accountability, transparency and responsiveness. This was a consistent theme expressed in all five of the community forums.

Financial health - All would like to see the financial health of HBP fully restored to meet both current and long-term (post 2016) financial needs. Many are dismayed that additional open space acquisition opportunities have not been pursued, and important long-term capital improvements and maintenance needs put on hold, while HBP has had to contribute millions each year to reduce the County's bankruptcy debt. Adding to the perceived financial injury, HBP has also funded services like the Harbor Patrol, the Mission of which has changed in significant ways toward homeland security that no longer directly supports the regional park system. They want to see steps taken to establish sustainable long term funding sources to meet HBP operational needs, capital requirements and for additional open space acquisitions. To ensure fiscal responsibility they believe HBP should operate more like a business, and that it can successfully leverage its fiscal resources through collaboration with other organizations, including strategic partnerships.

Improve organizational effectiveness - HBP staff was complimented for their dedication and ongoing efforts to maintain the quality and integrity of the park system despite financial and organizational constraints. Still, some expressed concern that the size and technical scope of the HBP organization was insufficient to meet the multi-disciplinary needs of the park system. They believe staffing levels will have to be increased to

match the needs and goals of the park system. Also, leadership, managerial, and technical capabilities of the organization will need to be further developed. Finally, they would like to see a more pro-active organizational culture developed as required to fulfill its leadership role and stewardship responsibilities.

Other Issues

In addition to the broader themes summarized above, other specific issues also were expressed in many of the community forums.

Old Orange County Courthouse – In all the meetings, opposition was expressed to the possibility that the Old County Courthouse might be transferred from HBP to the County Clerk-Recorder. The Courthouse was seen as one of the “jewels” of the park system. Transferring it away from HBP was viewed as a violation of HBP’s stewardship responsibilities, especially since this responsibility was seen as encompassing cultural and historic assets such as the courthouse. It was noted by some that if the Old County Courthouse were transferred there would then be no HBP facilities in District 1.

Moratorium on transfer of HBP facilities – Concern was expressed that significant decisions potentially impacting the future integrity of the regional park system were in the process of being made, especially regarding the possible sale or transfer of some HBP facilities. Those mentioned included not only the Old County Courthouse but also the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. It was strongly believed that such decisions should be put on hold until the completion of the strategic plan, in the hope that it will provide the criteria or framework needed to properly assess the costs and benefits of these critical decisions.

Overlooked HBP Facilities – In many of the meetings, there were those who expressed concern that HBP and the County were not devoting sufficient attention and resources to some of their facilities. The Orange County Zoo was described as a marvelous educational tool that was under funded and needed to be more effectively promoted. Others felt that the County was neglecting its equestrian heritage by not acting to compensate for a growing shortage of equestrian facilities. Others felt the County should do more to address the shortage of dog parks, especially in north Orange County.

SUMMARIES OF COMMUNITY FORUMS #1 TO #5

Even though many similar ideas and opinions were expressed in the five community forums, each forum was set up as a separate opportunity for members of the Orange County community to be heard. The balance of this report provides a summary of each community forum, offering a synopsis of the specific perspectives voiced at each particular meeting.

This is a record of the comments made during the community feedback portion of the community forum, which followed the completion of small group interactive discussions that took place in each forum. A large wallgraphic was used at this time to record the report back presentations and other comments. These summaries address the comments made during this portion of the meeting.

For even more detail, a synopsis of breakout group discussion, based on transcripts of comments recorded on flipcharts, is included in appendix A.

COMMUNITY FORUM #1

Date: June 19, 2006

Location: The Upper Newport Bay Nature Reserve – Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center, Newport Beach

Host: Jim Silva, Supervisor 2nd District

- Stewardship is good but it must encompass cultural as well as environmental assets.
 - Be more specific by defining what resources are to be protected – natural, cultural and historic.
- Cultural resources are also key County assets
 - This includes the major archeological and paleontological collections that are being neglected by the County
 - We must be able to implement the programs and policies that are already in place to protect these unique resources, provide the funding to make this possible, and educate the public on the value of these assets.
 - The Old Orange County Courthouse must remain with HBP
 - Create destination parks
- Environmental stewardship encompasses many crucial asset protection strategies
 - Protecting habitat and biodiversity

- **Habitat protection** is a key stewardship concept but it should also include habitat restoration wherever possible
- Address inland runoff issues.
 - Using public parks to accept runoff from new developments is not appropriate and harmful to environmental stewardship mission.
 - Address water quality and trash issues
- No more golf courses should be built. These do not fit the environmental stewardship principle of HBP
 - If any golf courses are built, then they must be environmentally friendly.
- Future acquisitions of additional open space is missing from the key vision and mission concepts
 - Doesn't the General Plan require this?
 - At the same time the threat exists that other valuable existing open space/wilderness areas will be transferred from the County to private industry
 - Need to strengthen HBP capacity to keep control of the regional park system, or lose out to encroachments on parks and other assets.
- **Education** is also a crucial concept that should be included among the other key vision and mission concepts.
 - The parks can function as outdoor classrooms
 - The interpretive aspect of the park system needs to be emphasized.
 - Market the parks as educational tools to local high schools
 - The regional park system as an educational strategy is appropriate for all grade levels.
- The concept of **connections** is good but should not be limited to people or their institutions.
 - It must be broadened to include the connections provided by wildlife corridors
 - A core environmental stewardship strategy for wildlife habitat protection.
- More equestrian facilities should be provided
- Explore organizational, funding and other options that will help keep HBP in control of all these critical assets, in order to fulfill its stewardship role.
 - Investigate the idea of HBP as a special district or an independent department

- Enable **HBP to report directly to the Board of Supervisors**, rather than through the County bureaucracy
- Empower HBP to negotiate on its own.
- The County should protect HBP through dedicated funds for the park system.
- HBP needs to **function more like a business** to increase its overall effectiveness and maximize the use of resources.
 - At the same time it should be free of the politics of business, which now undermine its capacity to protect the park system.
 - Avoid all conflicts of interest
 - De-acquisition of assets that do not fit the core mission of HBP
- Address Dana Point Harbor management issues
 - Why does this revenue now go to another department?
- HBP should increase overall public awareness through **marketing but this must also be balanced against the capacity** of the park system.
- HBP and the regional park system is the crucial element of the **quality of life** in Orange County
 - The added value of the park system should be determined and made known.
- Need to **build a constituency** for HBP and the park system
 - Market the benefits of HBP and the parks to the business community
 - Work to get business support for bond measures.
 - Recognize that some private entities take credit for the benefits generated by HBP, without acknowledging HBP

COMMUNITY FORUM #2

Date: June 27, 2006

Location: Ralph B. Clark Regional Park – Paleontology Museum, Buena Park

Host: Chris Norby, Supervisor 4th District

- **Stewardship** is a core concept but it also needs to encompass historical and cultural resources, including paleontological and archeological resources.
 - There is a lot of work that must be done to properly restore and care for these unique educational and scientific assets.
 - Establish interpretive centers, including a California Indian museum
- Protection of wildlife in all regional parks should be a part of the stewardship role.
 - Establish wildlife corridors
 - Protection of wildlife habitat is important but access must be provided as well
 - Restoration should be included as a stewardship or resource management concept
- **Acquisition of new open space lands and expansion** is a critical number one priority. Population growth requires
 - We act now before all open space disappears
 - Ensure we have enough open space and park lands to adequately serve a larger population
 - Coyote Hills a great opportunity
 - Although the lack of open space in North Orange County and cost of acquisition is high, assess the carbon balance effects of open space to gain a real understanding of the costs and benefits involved.
- **Connection and partnerships** for stewardship of some properties may be required
 - Joint ventures
 - Partnerships with the private sector, school districts and local cities
 - Need to determine the criteria for these possible arrangements to make sure they are in the public interest.
- **Education** should play a much larger role in the vision and mission concepts
 - Through interpretation
 - Using historical resources

- Great Park as a perfect location for Orange County natural and cultural history museum
- Vision and mission concepts are fine but more concerned with the sustainability of HBP's vision and mission, which can be achieved through improved funding and the **autonomy of HBP**
- Improved funding with **fiscal responsibility** will enable HBP to focus on the critical priority of acquiring new open space
 - Need a secure funding source to ensure the viability of HBP as a separate department.
 - Park assessment district
 - Capture revenues for parks
 - Given sharply rising property values shouldn't that have generated extra revenue for HBP? Where is it?
- Autonomy of HBP adds flexibility and creates additional funding opportunities
 - HBP now a stepchild, whose goals are in conflict with its parent agencies. A divorce is needed.
- **Expansion of "reach"**
 - Need more land facilities, especially in North Orange County
 - Where is the Great Park in the vision, and mission of HBP?
 - Need to define the role of HBP in support of the Great Park
 - There is currently a big gap and challenge facing Orange County due to the lack of parks in north Orange County combined with a growing and changing population
- **Coordination and leadership** within Orange County will be required to successfully meet this challenge, and close the gap between park supply and demand
 - Requires partnership and collaboration between the County government and the local cities.
 - Orange County has to provide the necessary leadership for this to happen.
- **Access**
 - Expand trails and bikeways, especially in North Orange County which is the weakest linkage
 - Better coordination between OCTA and HBP to improve bikeways; prioritize linkages
- **Green techniques** should be reflected in the vision and become an HBP priority
 - Department facilities and programs can serve as a model for others

- Establish bio-controls
- Educate internally and externally on green techniques
- And dog parks too!

COMMUNITY FORUM #3

Date: June 28, 2006

Location: Old County Courthouse, Santa Ana

Host: Lou Correa, Supervisor 1st District

- **Resource preservation** is an active dynamic process
 - Open up the archeological and paleontological collections so they are accessible to the public and scholars for study and observation, rather than hiding them away
 - People will be aware of the value and importance of these collections, essential to establish continuing support for their preservation and restoration.
 - Provides a connection to the past and a sense of our history
- There should be a moratorium on the sale/transfer of any HBP facilities until after the completion of the strategic plan
 - Need to maintain integrity of the regional park system
 - Stewardship of the Old County Courthouse should remain an HBP responsibility
 - If the Courthouse is taken away, there will be no HBP facilities in the 1st District
- **Education** needs to be included as a core vision and mission concept
 - Conduct more community outreach to increase awareness of and appreciation for the regional park system, including its cultural and historic resources.
 - Explore ways to use new technological advances to expand interpretive/educational programs (including at the Old Courthouse)
 - Establish technology-free zones, as regional parks also provide a refuge from modern day life
- The regional park system needs to **expand** by establishing space for a regional park in the 1st District

- Create a **continuous trail and bike network** by completing all the bikeways and trails in the 1st District
 - Provide park access throughout District #1 to help remedy park inequity
 - Establish partnerships with local cities to meet recreational needs of District #1 residents.
 - Provide funding to cities for local parks if no space for a regional park
- **A Vision for the Future**
 - A historic resource network, including a museum
- **Revenue Generation**
 - Utilize private sources and grants to generate funding for curation
 - Orange County should charge all developers a curation fee.
- **HBP autonomy; reasons why HBP should operate as a **separate entity****
 - It will help to stop the drain on its funding, achieve funding equality
 - It will have more control over its own revenue
 - Now being used as a “cash cow” by other County agencies
 - HBP under pressure to raise its fees; revenue should stay with the source that generated it.
 - Maintain the “voice” of HBP – HBP’s voice is lost within the County structure where it cannot provide direct input into key decisions.
 - Solidify active public support, which now gets lost because of current setup
 - The goals of HBP’s parent agency conflict with those of HBP, development goals versus preservation/protection goals
- **Collaboration** with local cities and other agencies essential to meet needs of local residents
 - Establish trail and bikeway linkages to all parks in District #1
 - Collaborate with schools to develop creative solutions for shared use of space.

COMMUNITY FORUM #4

Date: July 6, 2006

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center, Laguna Hills

Host: Thomas W. Wilson, Supervisor 5th District

- **Acquiring, securing and protecting natural areas** seen as a key HBP priority but this is also integral/supportive to other public needs
 - Three priorities for HBP –preservation, recreation and education
 - Open space conservation and management, along with recreation, all fall under HBP responsibilities.
 - HBP can find a way to balance protection with recreational use.
- HBP are **stewards of Orange County's excellent quality of life**
 - The parks reflect Orange County's quality of life
 - They are an essential feature of that way of life, which must be protected and preserved for the future.
 - Need to make sure there are enough funds to maintain existing parks
 - Also requires that County acquire additional lands and trails to provide **connections** between parks
 - Consider flood control areas and railroad rights of way as potential new park areas, even in developed communities.
- **Effective resource management** the key HBP priority
 - Need to identify and define those resources – biological, wildlife, cultural, paleontological, and historical as part of the vision/mission concept
 - Stewardship role includes HBP active involvement in watershed management, in partnership with cities.
 - Disconnect between County Flood Control and HBP park maintenance, regarding runoff
 - Multi-objective planning and design is achievable
 - Question whether HBP has enough trained, inter-disciplinary staff to effectively carryout its stewardship role.
- HBP should have a more active **recreation** role
 - **Leadership** is needed in this area to find a way to meet the recreational needs of Orange County residents
 - Work in partnership with cities and other agencies

- As a **portal**, HBP could provide information on all local/city recreational resources in the County.
- **Education** supports HBP mission by creating future stewards of the land
 - Education should include the expansion of experiential learning opportunities
- HBP will need organizational independence to achieve its other priorities.
 - This has to be the **number one priority**
 - Independence will enable HBP to provide pro-active **organizational leadership**, which it cannot do now.
 - Leadership as integral to stewardship role.
 - Will provide basis for more effective decision-making
 - Will help protect its funding
 - Independence will also allow HBP to play a more effective oversight role (review of proposed projects) as it did in the past
- Organizational independence should be tied to a new governance structure that will afford it more legal/funding protection
 - Before the bankruptcy, HBP was financially self-sustaining; we should send “them” a bill.
 - Insufficient HBP funding is a travesty and wholly unnecessary given what homes in Orange County now sell for.
 - Public participation in the process is key to achieving real commitment to stewardship and viable financial support for HBP.
 - Bring in all facets of the public/stakeholder interests to create a viable strategic plan
 - Build a “support Congress” to provide direction for HBP and help create a self-sustaining HBP
- **Partnerships** with cities, other public agencies, non-profits, and developers are needed to enhance, expand, acquire or augment HBP resources.
 - For both recreational parks and wilderness areas
 - A way to leverage funding and achieve greater **fiscal security**
 - HBP cannot do it all by itself, even if it achieves more direct funding for its own facilities and programs.
- Viable funding seen as the **key to success**
 - Will enable HBP to effectively implement its other priorities
 - It will enable HBP to preserve, protect, and enhance more resources

- Increases its ability to manage more land, reducing the potential conflict between resources needed to manage existing facilities and those needed to acquire and maintain new ones.
- Any **interim decisions**/negotiations now underway should be **aligned with the strategic plan**, which will not be completed until the end of the year.
 - Horrified that County Clerk-Recorder may take over the Old County Courthouse, after not paying rent for 6 years (and were never billed).
 - Stakeholders have asked that negotiations be put on hold until the strategic plan is completed.

COMMUNITY FORUM #5

Date: July 12, 2006

Location: Irvine Regional Park, Orange

Host: Bill Campbell, Supervisor 3rd District

Education an essential component of **stewardship**

- Provides a bridge from the past, through the present, and to the future
- Fossil and archeological resources a tremendous untapped resource
- Resource management must include our cultural and historical resources
- Interpretation essential so community is made aware and comes to value these resources
- Education should be youth focused
 - Create stewards for the future
- Establish museums specific to each facility throughout the County

Connections needed to provide access to parks and open space areas

- Between parks
- Through neighborhoods
- Equestrian facilities need to be increased
- Trail access that is sensitive to the wild; do not disrupt the wilderness character
- Transit service to parks to help residents living in park poor neighborhoods

Effective **resources** management depending on sufficient **funding**

- Create an independent HBP as essential step to ensure funding and mission integrity
- Identify and devote resources for implementation
- Concern that current staff size and training not sufficient to achieve vision and mission.
- Business model to run HBP; ensure more efficient use of resources
- Partners in community to identify resources
- Corporate sponsorship as a potential way to leverage existing resources

Preservation and acquisition of open space areas a priority

- Acquisition of new lands a critical priority now
- Must protect wilderness character of existing open space areas
- Protect North Orange County by acquiring new open space areas, where feasible
- Use both fees and bonds to generate funding for acquisition
- Make sure sufficient trained staff to educate public on management of public lands
- Establish dedicated facilities to floral and fauna preserves

Culture of change within HBP required to fulfill its **leadership**

- HBP needs to be more proactive
- Initiate outreach to non-profits and local communities, and be responsive to their outreach efforts.
- Become a visible leader for stewardship in the County
- Co-operate with cities and other agencies
- Partner with private sector
- More active political support

Community engagement and recognize there are a wide variety of **user needs**

- Youth
- ADA
- Programs for all ages

- Partnerships
- Marketing of parks and resources to increase awareness of and promote support
- Zoo is being neglected and needs more attention
- Need more dog parks
- Match facilities are essential just to match population growth
- Simplify the volunteer process

“Create a first-class parks system”

- How do equestrians fit in?
- “Out of the box and into the parks!!”
- “Protect the courthouse”
- “Save the lions!”

APPENDIX A: BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

COMMUNITY FORUM #1

Comments from the three separate breakout groups are recorded below.

GROUP 1

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Expressed concern that County of Orange is neglecting management of its historic and cultural resources
- Especially archeological and paleontological – sites and collections

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Stewardship is good but what resources are meant by “protection of resources”
- Need to define “resources,” which should include -
 - Historic
 - Cultural (including archeological)
 - Natural (including paleontological)
- Protection of these resources, including archeological/burial sites, is needed
 - Includes maintaining the confidentiality (i.e. the location) of these sites.
 - Educating the public about the values of these cultural resources is very important but can also conflict with the goal of protecting these sites.
- HBP needs to develop policy with native Americans here in Orange County regarding access to these sites, as well as the care and protection of these resources
 - Lack of funding has undercut the County’s ability to properly protect these resources
 - Land Owners (and developers) should be required to pay more dollar value for preservation/recovery/assessment/cataloging
- Raise public level of awareness of the tremendous value of these archeological and paleontological resources.
 - Unique in the world
 - Tremendous value and significance
 - Most who live here have no idea
- County collections have been warehoused, but otherwise are not cataloged; for all intents are non-existent

- County must provide proper funding and staffing to manage and protect these resources
- Confidentiality of burial and other sites must be maintained
- Implementation of proper curation procedures (for historic and cultural resources)
- Sites on public lands are vulnerable to public access
 - Review site stewardship policies and procedures

Priorities

- Three most important things – County of Orange already has written agreements and policies in place for the proper protection and management of cultural resources. But it must
 - Implement these policies
 - Fund these programs
 - Educate the public on the value of these rare and important resources
- Provide more access for the general public to some of its unique historic assets
 - Instead of reserving them for exclusive groups
- Preservation of natural areas
- Retain Old County Courthouse as flagship/landmark historic facility.

GROUP 2

Impression/Reactions

- TIC's urban run-off into Irvine Regional Parks is an inappropriate use of public lands
- Public lands used without proper reimbursement to HBP
- No surprises (per one participant)
- Natural resources are not to be mined
 - Concern for degraded natural habitat
 - Need better monitoring of habitat areas
- What is the relationship/overlap between open space, landowners, County of Orange and HBP
 - IRLRT map shows HBP lands

Vision and Mission Concepts

- Is HBP considering transfers of properties to private entities?

- Protect the diversion of Tideland funds
- Concerns about the Old County Courthouse
- Need to avoid cookie cutter policies
 - Ex. - Parking fees at Upper Newport Bay
- Address unique qualities of each facility and its management
- Consider global climate change
- Provide physical connections that make sense for wild life
 - County parks are islands that need to be connected
- Spell out term “protection of resource”; explain archeological, paleo, all other aspects included in resources
- Enhance/expand the interpretive side at parks
- All parks have local use.
 - Don’t cut parks from the herd because visitor ship is local

Priorities

- Funding, as previously identified by the Grand Jury Report
 - Not enough funding for County to do proper management
- Future of Old Courthouse/Museum –
 - It should remain with HBP
- Concern with out sourcing the management of HBP facilities by others, including open space and natural resources
 - Concern HBP taken over by others
 - Privatization threat
- Excellent WEB site

GROUP 3

Impressions/Reactions

- Dana Point Harbor
 - Management of revenue by separate department?
 - but still remains asset of CSA 26? Why is that?
- Future acquisitions were not addressed in presentation, but are they not needed to meet the goals of the General Plan?

Vision and Mission Concepts

- Need more equestrian facilities
- Do not add more golf courses-
 - They need to be environmentally friendly
- Look for more funding sources within HBP system
- De-accession of “local” facilities
 - South Laguna beaches –1000 steps T.A.B.
- Instead of “protection of resources”, it should read “protection of habitat and biodiversity, and cultural and historic resources.”
 - Directly linked to “preservation for future generations.”
- Add education as another key vision concept –
 - Parks as outdoor classrooms/ interpretive functions
- Broaden the connections concept to include wildlife corridors; an important aspect/benefit of physical connections between parks
- Replace the term “facilities” with “parks.”

Priorities

- HBP needs to operate more like a business but politics of business needs to be deleted
- Protect its assets both physical and monetary, as would any landowner
- Find balance in marketing vs. capacity
- Build a constituency

COMMUNITY FORUM #2

Comments from the four separate breakout groups are recorded below.

GROUPS 1&5

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Pleased by protection of resources role but question whether that is being adequately carried out in all areas, especially archeological and paleontological resources.
- Surprised that Orange County regional park system can be traced back to 1st park in 1897

- Was not aware it was such an expansive system
- Pleased that stewardship was identified as first concept.
- Did not see Irvine Great Park mentioned or what role HBP may play with it.
- Concerned about continuing disrepair of historical facilities
 - We should use funding that now goes to Harbor Patrol for restoration.
- Only a limited number of historical facilities
 - Need archives for local Native American archeological discoveries
- Education was not mentioned in the exhibits or presentations.

Vision/Mission Concepts

- The vision and mission needs to reflect the unique historical, architectural and cultural resources existing in Orange County
 - They can provide a sense of place
 - Can't be recreated
 - Provide a basis for community and connection
- Orange County has world-class fossil collections but they are hidden away and seriously neglected
- Archeological finds represent the extensive diversity in languages and cultures that has always existed here.
- We should provide land for an Orange County Natural History Museum
- Education needs to be included in the vision and mission
- No cultural or archeological sites were featured in the PowerPoint presentation
 - Many of these sites are disappearing because of continuing development
- Establish an interpretive center for Indian language
- Make the archeological and paleontological collections accessible for scholars
- There is a lot of work to be done to properly care and protect these invaluable collections
- Start with a complete inventory of all these scattered collections
- Are corporate sponsorships possible as one way to fund the work necessary to ensure proper stewardship of these collections?
- There are other great museums around the country that could be a model for what needs to be done here. They also include wonderful interpretive/educational programs

- We can't live by sports alone. We also need things in Orange County that cultivate the mind
- Focus on partnerships with other organizations to avoid duplicative efforts.

Priorities

- Funding
- Protection of resources
 - Preserve from pollution
- Enhancement of facilities to meet community needs
- Resource management
- Get the land to deal with demands for open space and recreation from population growth
- All land donations should come with endowments
- Easy to get rid of land, but very hard to acquire it
 - So when there is an opportunity to acquire new land every effort should be made to do so.
- County needs to be involved in the Great Park
 - This would be a wonderful location for a natural and cultural history museum
- All of these resources – natural, cultural, historical – create opportunities to get away from our every day realities
 - To travel in space and time, make discoveries.
- Beach protection
- If some HBP resources are transferred to non-public entities, what will be the criteria for identifying/selecting these stewards to make sure they are qualified for that role?
- Need to solve the overcrowded parks in north Orange County

GROUP #2

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- HBP doing a darn good job
 - HBP staff is dedicated
- Involve more of Orange County's Paleontology collections in their educational endeavors. Surprised how program is not robust.

- Conflicted: under RDMD or whatever
- HBP staff and resources are spread too thin.
- Under siege from bankruptcy, etc.

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Where's funding?
 - Where is the extra money that has been generated by increasing property values? What is it being used for?
- Stewardship – Expand to include paleo and cultural resources
- Legacy – reflect keeping up with population and public needs
 - “Acquisition”
- Partnership – cities need to get more involved to help the County
- Where's the “Great Park” in the vision?
- Protection is important but parks and open space must be accessible
- The concept of restoration needs to be included, either add it to stewardship or resource management
- Vision and Mission statements need to be more specific

Priorities

- Secure a funding source
- Divorce HBP from their parents
 - Create a new separate development
- HBP should just do what they do best – managing their own business and not be facilitators of other programs; e.g. watershed management
- Doing all of the above will affirm what we do and allow expansion and flexibility.

GROUP #3

Priorities/Strategies

1. Address the lack of open space in North Orange County
 - Assess the cost/benefits of the carbon balance effect of open space
2. Create joint ventures between the County, cities, state and federal governments
 - To acquire and develop parks and open space
 - To complete and expand the trail/bikeway systems in North Orange County

- Develop effective relationship between County and cities regarding trail projects in cities
 - To improve coordination between OCTA and HBP to promote bikeway system
 - To develop connections/partnerships with private sector and educational institutions (For example, a curation program to manage fossil collections)
- 3. Protection of wildlife/habitat in all regional parks
 - Parks as a refuge for wildlife
 - Don't prune during nesting season

GROUP #4

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- This was my first time at a park
- Expansive, water, diversity of parks and land
 - Need a dog park in one corner
- The problem of too little park space in North Orange County
 - Far more parks are in South Orange County
- Would like to see a map of dog parks
- Impressed by the volume of assets under control of the County– 38 thousand acres
- How much has been lost due to the continuing drain caused by the bankruptcy
- What can we do?
- Need more open space in North Orange County
- JT. Training Base – Good idea
- Increased population in Orange County
 - What is park acreage per capita?
- Need more parks
- Need another revenue source
 - We have 3 landfills (\$1/ton), a potential revenue source?

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Open space acquisition is a high priority in the 4th District
 - Coyote Hills and (Aera) property
- Expand recreation opportunities (open space, transportation, parks)

- Ensure access; revenue – generation (Modjeska)
- Need dog parks
- Fossils are languishing in a warehouse
 - Tremendous educational and scientific opportunities
 - But without funds, there can be no facility
- Historic resources get funding
- Require developers to fund collections, etc.
- Disappearance of stables, equestrian parks
 - Look for new sites

Priorities

- Create a park assessment district (\$100 million)
- Market HBP; Develop a marketing plan
 - Hotels
 - Vacation
 - Tourist destination? (CA)
 - North Orange County parks currently North Orange County residents
- Large open space acquisition/developers
- Fair share \$

COMMUNITY FORUM #3

Comments from the three separate breakout groups are recorded below.

GROUP A

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Lots of parks
- Cultural and paleontology resources not highlighted or mentioned
- Beaches – wow!
- Improvements at Caspers

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Trails and bikeways are important resources but impacted by development
 - Trail connections interrupted

- “Resources” by itself is too broad a term. It needs to be clear what resources are being protected.
 - Cultural
 - Paleontological
 - Natural
- There is a need to preserve existing cultural resources
 - Concerned about the possible transfer of those resources to other institutions
- Education as a concept needs to be included in the vision and mission statements
 - HBP has done a good job interpreting resources (Paleontological and historic)
 - Excellent programs
 - Partnering with non-profits/volunteers
- Public lands should be portrayed as providing a refuge from everyday life
 - They can also provide a connection to the past
- Resource management needs to include the proper stewardship of the existing paleo collection
- Preservation is not a passive but an active concept
 - Important that access to these collections/artifacts be made possible for scholars and public
 - That access can give us a connection to our past and a sense of history
- Need to improve curation of these collections
- Stewardship implies we will be looking at the long-term far into the future
- Need to act today or these unique resources will be lost forever
- HBP cultural resources provide us with a connection to the past

Priorities

- Utilize paleontology/cultural artifacts to educate people
 - Will bring increased value as the public becomes aware
 - First have to get them out of their boxes
- Make linkages
 - Create a continuous network of trails
- Maintain integrity of the regional park system
 - Keep parks regional;

- Cities can do what they want
- Prevent transfers of HBP facilities
 - Old Courthouse is a current issue
- Proposed strategies
 - Create partnerships with consortiums
 - Use technology, where appropriate, to promote interest
 - Need technology free zones to maintain connection with the past

GROUP B

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Hate to lose library
- Uncertainty regarding future status of Court House
- Provide more connectivity of parks through trails and other things
- Old Court House Society is very concerned over possible transfer of Courthouse
 - Keep with HBP
- If Court House were lost there would be no HBP facility in the 1st District.
- City and Orange County Sheriff should pay for Harbor Patrol, not HBP
- HBP hasn't been a good steward of the fossil collection. Elevate collection to its proper place.
- Promote more education in historical facilities

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Does HBP have plans for the additional funds from the Harbor Patrol?
 - Yes
- Can some of these new funds go directly to help the archeological and paleo collections?
 - The budget is already approved
- Collections are neglected
- HBP should be leaders by taking an active role in the stewardship of these collections
- Ensure historic facilities are fully utilized
- We are a county of 3 million with no world class museum
- Get HBP out of RDMD to protect its funding

- Develop marketing video to distribute
- Don't give away HBP land
- Education
- Cultural heritage
- Historic resources
- Revenue generation
- Vision for facilities museum
- Protection of resources – define as natural, historic and cultural

Priorities

1. Active stewardship of collections
2. Protection and stewardship of Old Courthouse
3. Vision for a natural history museum
 - A place to exhibit the unique archeo/paleo collections
4. Completion of bikeways and trails through the 1st District
5. HBP as a separate department
6. 1st District needs a regional park
7. If there is no space for a new regional park, the other way to address the inequity issue – the County provides funding for local parks
8. Provide stewardship for the lands we currently have – do not give any of these lands away
9. Education for future generations
10. Community outreach

GROUP C

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Cultural resources defined: historical and natural
- A moratorium on sale of HBP property until after strategic planning
- Secure own funding
 - HBP operate as a separate entity
- Retain historic facilities as educational and cultural opportunity

- Curation provided for cultural resources
- Funding for curation
 - Private and grants
- County charge developers for curation
- County assist City of Santa Ana with planning for open space and local parks
- Address park inequities by increasing access to parks
- Develop creative solutions for “shared space” (use)
 - Collaborative efforts with schools
- Support trails and bikeways group
- A vocational education
 - Walking/visitor center
- Marketing HBP

Priorities

1. Access to healthy recreation opportunities anywhere in District 1
2. Collaborative efforts for “shared use of space”
3. Protection, preservation, curation and funding of cultural, historic and natural resources

COMMUNITY FORUM #4

Comments from the five separate breakout groups are recorded below.

GROUP 1

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Acreage
- Business approach
- Servicing bankruptcy
- Defined maintenance
- Concern about potential transfers during process
- Institutional shifts and financial impacts
- Acquisitions (lack of)
- HBP separate dept

- Interagency cooperation for purpose of acquiring open space
- Speed of transfer of assets

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Can not effectively carryout stewardship without leadership
- Creating more personal connections with parks
- Personal involvement and responsibility
- Focus on acquisition is missing
- Identify the values underlying HBP; not clear what they are
- Acquiring more open space in north county
- Mandate for protecting natural wilderness areas
- Secure parks through deed restrictions – public parks for public use
- Clarify and define terminology (resource management too generic)
- No net loss of habitat

Priorities

- Acquiring, securing and protecting natural areas
- Securing additional funding sources – rather than raising user fees
- HBP plan review function restored (as it used to be when it was a stand-alone agency)
 1. Preservation
 2. Recreation
 3. Education
- HBP organizational independence
 1. Protected funding
 2. Governance/legal protection
 3. Public participation
- Partnerships – ex. Discovery Science Center

GROUP 2

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities/Key Issues

- Sees HBP as a PASSIVE recreation provider

- Would like to see more active recreation role
- Leadership in stewardship
- Develop more interpretation, stewardship programs
- Protection of open space resources
- Enhance nature/ecology with home gardens, composting, recycling green waste
- Diversion of money for debt is of concern... do more to get more
- Buy more/acquire land to expand park system
- HBP should be a separate dept (co-mingling of funds)
- How did Dana Point get away from us?
- Trend in education away from environmental topics
 - Emphasize environmental education programs thru interpretive hikes, etc.
Awaken Nature Education
- Should have triple amount of funding – requires leadership, no excuses, the money exist in Orange County
- Park system should reflect outstanding qualities of OC

Priorities

- Education will acquaint children/adults to the land!!
- Are there enough appropriate staff?
 - Interdisciplinary
- Education should start with elementary schools
 - Develop partnerships with schools (4th grade curriculum a good start)
- Increase, funding, capitol
- Why aren't development assessor fees/new and re-development (Quimby act) being channeled to parks?
- Don't buy new lands until there's enough to maintain existing lands
- Separate department should mean better protection and funds
- Guarantee increased funding
- Spend more money in north county
- Acquisition and land
 1. Need any type of recreation
 2. Trail connections

- Loss of control over facilities
- Better cooperation with cities (city parks) and citizen partnerships
- Conservation, recycling programs
 1. Save money
 2. Make money
 3. Educate
- Agricultural/gardening heritage – education program. GROW STEWARDS!!
- Balance recreation and resources
- Return harbor patrol to sheriff's
- Equally divide state funds between 5 districts
- Empower HBP commission to make decisions/or not...

GROUP 3

Priorities

- Open space conservation vs. Recreation
- Protection and enhancement of existing park facilities (eg A/W Cyns.), including maintenance
- Balance protection and use of all parks
- Keep Old County Courthouse under HBP Historical Facilities
- Additional funding for HBP
- Separate HBP dept.
- Charge non-paying users (e.g. mountain bikers)
- Better coordination with non-profits
- Education - expand experiential learning
- Protection of existing trail connections

GROUP 4

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Fortunate to have variety of resources
- Big responsibility/stewardship

- Ocean resources
- Document (map) run off for point source clean up.
 - Establish pre-development baseline flow
- Embrace technology to “preserve natural resources”

Vision/Mission Concepts

- Disconnect between OCFD and HBP (with water resources)
- Education about resources. Enforcement (developer level)
 - Education with action plan to support HBP too!
- Stronger partnerships between cities and county
- Partnering with cities to educate, strategize and develop action-oriented plans to manage watersheds
- Outreach/marketing - residents don’t know that facilities exist
 - Sponsor special events

GROUP 5

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- A lot more responsibility with HBP
- Geological features
- Scenic features
- Resources management = biological/wildlife, cultural, paleontological, and historical
- Concern about diversion of financial resources from HBP
- Funding – protection enhancing
- Maintenance plan
- Land acquisition

Priorities

- Resource management
- Partnerships to enhance/expand acquire or augment significant OC resources
- HBP is steward of excellent quality of life features
- Guidelines for new emerging community “ranch” developers to align with vision/mission

- HBP – cities partnerships
- Steward of quality of life features
 - Preserve
 - Protect
 - Enhance
- Solutions need to be innovative/creative to meet our demands
 - Funding
 - Planning
- More public involvement needed through education

COMMUNITY FORUM #5

Comments from the five separate breakout groups are recorded below.

GROUP 1

Impressions/Vision and Mission Concepts/Issues

- HBP needs to provide leadership by being more engaged with the community
 - Pro-active advocacy. Collaboration with community/non-profits
 - Many local non-profits can help HBP achieve its goals, but first HBP needs to work with and support these non-profits
 - If HBP were more pro-active it would actively work with OCTA and others to bring inner city kids to nature.
 - This will require a culture change inside HBP, which has been too passive a player.
 - Establish relationships/partnerships with schools
 - Educational outreach a more positive pro-active concept than portal.
- Protect the wilderness character of open space lands, much of which has been lost over the past few decades (e.g. mountain lions are disappearing)
 - Establish buffers between development and wilderness areas
 - Language is in the General Plan to that effect.
 - Our preservation motto – “save the lions.”
- Acquisition of new open space areas is a priority but seems anathema to Orange County
 - Improve HBP funding to make land acquisitions possible

- Readjust current funding priorities to make more funds available for new land acquisitions
- Seek new funding sources so County never again has to turn away future land donations (Measure M)
- Surprised by percentage of HBP expenses now going to salaries
- There should be no sub-contracting of park management to private entities
- There should be no land decisions/transfers until strategic planning process is completed.
- Establishing HBP as a separate organization is essential.
 - Organizational autonomy will provide better accountability, visibility with the public, transparency, and responsiveness
 - Will enable HBP to make own decisions
 - Addresses debt issue – as a separate department will know the real costs
 - Will be better able to guard against encroachments on public land by private development or other public uses.
- HBP needs to effectively manage/steward all its resources – natural, cultural, and historic
 - Tremendous untapped potential of archeological and paleontological collections
 - Orange County zoo is marvelous but under funded; needs to be more effectively promoted.
 - There is a shortage of equestrian facilities
 - Need more than one dog park in north Orange County

Priorities

- Land acquisition and preservation
 - Put a hold on all land transfer decisions
 - Save the lions
- Separate organization
 - Autonomy provides accountability, transparency, more secure funding, responsiveness, and authority to make own decisions.
- Collaborate with non-profits and others to leverage resources
 - Expand volunteer program.
 - Guard against all other encroachments.
 - Green awareness.

GROUP 2

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities/Key Issues

- Going to visit more OC Parks
- No surprises – stewardship is important
- Glad to learn more about HBP funding
- Haven't heard much about how children fit into HBP parks
- Pleased to hear HBP is interested in partnerships – cultivate partnerships
- Dogs need a place – parks for dogs
- HBP – fabulous fossils
- Interested in expansion of equestrian trails
- Excited about future changes
- Preservation of open space
- More partnerships
- Curious of how reserve rangers will fit into the future of HBP
- Plan of action for land acquisition

Vision and Mission Concepts

- Recreation – park user needs;
 - Dog parks,
 - Specific activities for kids (interpretive program to enjoy parks),
 - ADA, special needs
- Neighborhood connections.
 - Walking, biking – safety for children
 - Expansion of trails – connections
 - Access and staging areas
- Enhancing all facilities that will bring together all concepts, activities:
 - “Parks as your backyard.”
- Stewardship – paleo resources storage and exhibits.
 - Paleontological, cultural and historic resources stewardship and partnerships
 - Protection of cultural and historical assets – do not divest
 - Adequate staffing for paleo programs

- Education – current and future generations so they can carry on legacy
 - Education for all ages – for past, present and future
 - Step up marketing and awareness of parks to get them off the couch
- Stewardship of open space
 - Open space – deeds with restrictions or hidden agendas
 - Keep land management within HBP with more direct public participation/access
 - Land acquisitions
 - Priority parcels
- HBP as a separate department free of RDMD
 - Coordination between County and cities for connections, recreation
 - Coordination with adjacent landowners
 - Look to partner with State and Fed for funding/resources: Also private partnerships
- Ensure funding for long term maintenance and education for stewardship
- Boarding facilities for horses
- Recognize educational value of OC Zoo. Give the Zoo its dues

GROUP 3

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Loss of funds
- Pleased to see greater focus on development of open space
- Wants to hear more about the HBP's zoo at Irvine Regional Park
 - Values the HBP zoo education department
 - Zoo should expand its relationships with other non-profits
- Concern about potential loss of HBP facilities due to loss of funds
 - Possible privatization of HBP facilities
- What is the future of the HBP paleo collection?
- Why don't we better value our parks/precious resources
- What is the emphasis on county riding and hiking trails
- Concern about lack of adequate staff

Vision & Mission Concepts

- Stewardship of public lands and cultural resources (archeo/paleo/historic)
- Adequate funding through sound business model
- Trail connections between regional parks
- More volunteerism
 - Streamline the process
- Education through interpretation
- Protection/addition of parkland in N. Orange County

Priorities

- 3 things to do...
 - Need adequate funding business model.
 - Independent HBP
 - Protect and preserve
 - Achieve first class status of reg. park system (B of S) – education
 - Cooperation w/ cities/agencies
 - More equestrian facilities/great park
- 3 things...
 - Independent HBP w/ adequate funding thru sound business model
 - Protect and preserve all HBP resources
 - Achieve first class regional park system

GROUP 4

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Great turnout
- Responsibility for safety
- HBP Does...
 - Provide for all its users
 - Set the standard
 - Protect resources... guard all open space in county
 - Act in self-sustaining fashion
 - Prioritize natural design
 - Acquisition, recreation, preservation, education

Vision and Mission Concepts

- Team with organizations to develop programs and attract funds.
 - Include acquisition of new areas.
 - Funding: secure source to implement the vision. Materials.
- Preservation in all Orange County;
 - Habitat, resource conservation, historic resources, mitigation.
- Education; fossils, artifacts, interpretive resources,
 - Share info: kiosks, on the web, youth-focused.
 - Relate to universities, schools, etc.
 - Museums specific to each facility – distribute arch resources throughout the county “out of the box”.
 - Identify orgs to lead education efforts

Priorities

- Strengths
 - Arch/fossil collection
 - Staff!!
 - Diversity of Land
- Weaknesses
 - Budget. Spin off harbor district?
 - Diversion of funds
 - Lack of land
 - Agency conflict
 - Lack of developer contribution
- Opportunities
 - Habitat restoration
 - Redevelopment of rivers and access – recreational uses on Santa Ana
 - Consider separating HBP as own division
 - Increase mitigation/developer accountability
 - Maintain network of multi-use trails

GROUP 5

Impressions/Reactions to HBP Scope of Responsibilities

- Bankruptcy payment

- Lack of knowledge – world class fossils
- How different facilities fit together
- No contact (person) for time of meeting
- Surprised discarding facilities (non-core) before completion of strategic plan
- Allowing private (boy scouts) access thru Irvine Park.
- Special facilities get ignored – OC Zoo, Courthouse, Paleo collections
- Bothered by use of chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides) in parks – turf
 - No artificial turf
- HBP needs to be its own district
- Acquisitions (eg. Ranch plan). More open space parks. Connectivity
- Leave parks open
- Create more trails – connections.
 - Accept dedications earlier.
 - Require trails as part of developments
- Old courthouse – surprised with take over – this is no good!

Vision and Mission Concepts

- Protect (leave alone) open space for wildlife
- Parks for recreation that does not impact natural resources
- Extreme trail use – need limits.
 - Mountain bikes – impact.
 - Unauthorized trail use.
- Preservation is active; stewardship, people (volunteers) getting involved, active protection, removal of non-native species.
- Connecting ALL of the trails. Different parks (county, city, state parks). More opportunities.
- Balance needed between access and resource protection.
- True multi-use trails needed safe for all trail users
- Create dedicated fund to create and maintain trails.
- Hire experienced staff with appropriate expertise to manage resources
- Portal?
 - “Key entry point for knowledge” not sure that it is a core business

- Need to educate youth – appreciate mother nature, yields protection
- Volunteers – solicitation more active
- Active political support. Board needs to tour all facilities
- Save the lions.

Priorities

- HBP should be separate entity
- Acquisition of parkland by dedication and bonds. Partnerships with developers, non-profits corporations.
- Preservation of the natural and cultural resources and balance with recreation.
 - Education thru interpretation.
 - Hiring appropriate staff. Staff needs empowerment to make right decisions.
- More funding needed, less costly maintenance and more environment friendly.

APPENDIX B - COMMUNITY FORUM FORMAT

OVERVIEW

Each of the five community forms was designed both to inform people about HBP and to provide opportunities to share their ideas for the future of the regional park system managed by HBP. A community forum was held in each of the five supervisorial districts, and the County of Orange Supervisor for each district hosted the meeting. The forum began with an open house, followed by a presentation on the history and current circumstances of HBP. Afterwards, during interactive small group discussions, participants expressed their thoughts regarding what they believed should be the future priorities of HBP. Each forum concluded with a facilitated open discussion among all participants.

OPEN HOUSE AND EXHIBITS

The first hour of the forum was an open house during which visitors could view exhibits that provided an overview of HBP's current facilities and staffing. These exhibits featured the full range of park facilities managed by HBP, including its urban parks, wilderness parks and nature preserves, natural parks, historic and cultural parks, beaches and harbors, and trails and bikeways. An additional exhibit featured information about the HBP organization. Also, two slide presentations running continuously in the exhibit area highlighted respectively, photos from earlier strategic planning events, and the variety of parks and facilities in the regional system.

OPENING COMMENTS AND HBP 101 PRESENTATION

Following a welcoming statement and introduction by Kevin Thomas, the Director of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, the meeting began with a presentation by the County of Orange Supervisor who was hosting the forum. At each forum, the supervisor provided his perspective on Harbors Beaches and Parks and why input from all those who had come to the meeting was important for the future development of the regional park system. There was also an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the supervisor.

After the conclusion of the supervisor's talk, Mr. Thomas then began a PowerPoint presentation providing background information on HBP. This presentation described the history of HBP over the past century, the role of the General Plan in defining the purpose of HBP and the regional park system, the variety of HBP facilities, and current funding for HBP.

HBP DIRECTIONS AND PRIORTIES – BREAKOUT GROUPS

The presentation then transitioned to focus on the current strategic planning process. Daniel Iacofano, from Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc., the lead from the strategic planning team working with HBP to develop the strategic plan, described the purpose and nature of the strategic planning process. He explained that a key step in that process was defining the vision and mission of the organization, and their input that evening would help achieve that purpose. Mr. Iacofano introduced the current HBP mission statement and then described potential concepts for a new vision and mission statement that had emerged during preceding steps in the strategic planning effort.

At that point Mr. Iacofano explained, they would be breaking up into smaller discussion groups during which they would be able to comment on the emerging vision and mission concepts. During the breakout group discussions, facilitators from HBP staff and the MIG project team, asked participants three questions, and used flip charts to record their comments.

- Given what you heard in the presentation, what are your impressions of what HBP does? Were you surprised in any way?
- Do the vision and mission concepts align with what you believe the County should be doing? What would you change, add or delete, if anything?
- What are the top three things you believe HBP should be doing to make these Vision concepts a reality?

The breakout group discussions enabled all who attended the forums to provide their input regarding the future direction of HBP.

GROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

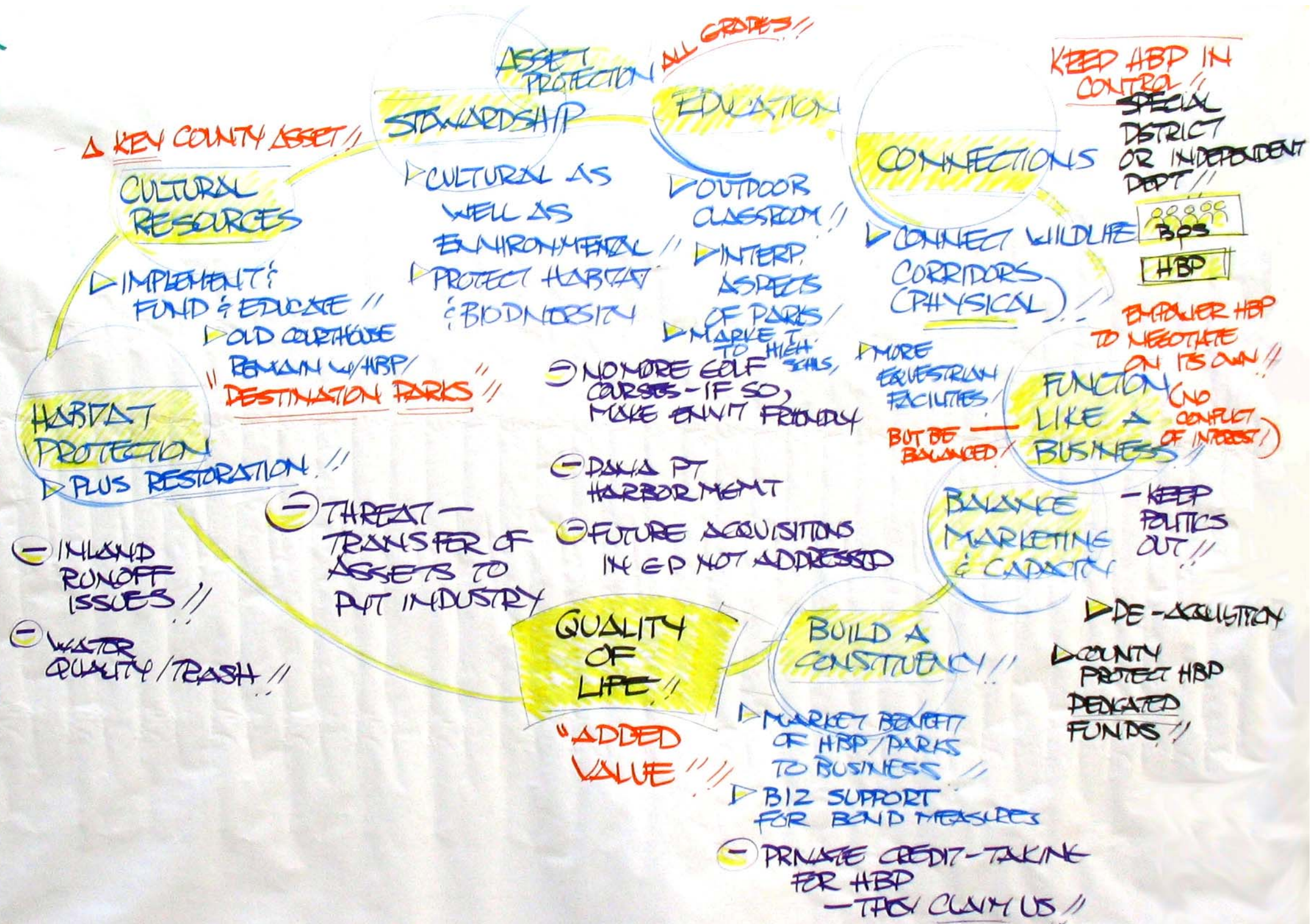
Following the completion of the breakout group discussions, which lasted 40 minutes, participants reassembled in the main meeting area. At this time, the facilitator for each breakout group reported back on the major ideas and themes that arose from their respective discussions. This also set the stage for additional comments from the full group. A large wallgraphic was used to record the report back presentations and other comments. Kevin Thomas concluded each meeting after thanking everyone for their participation.

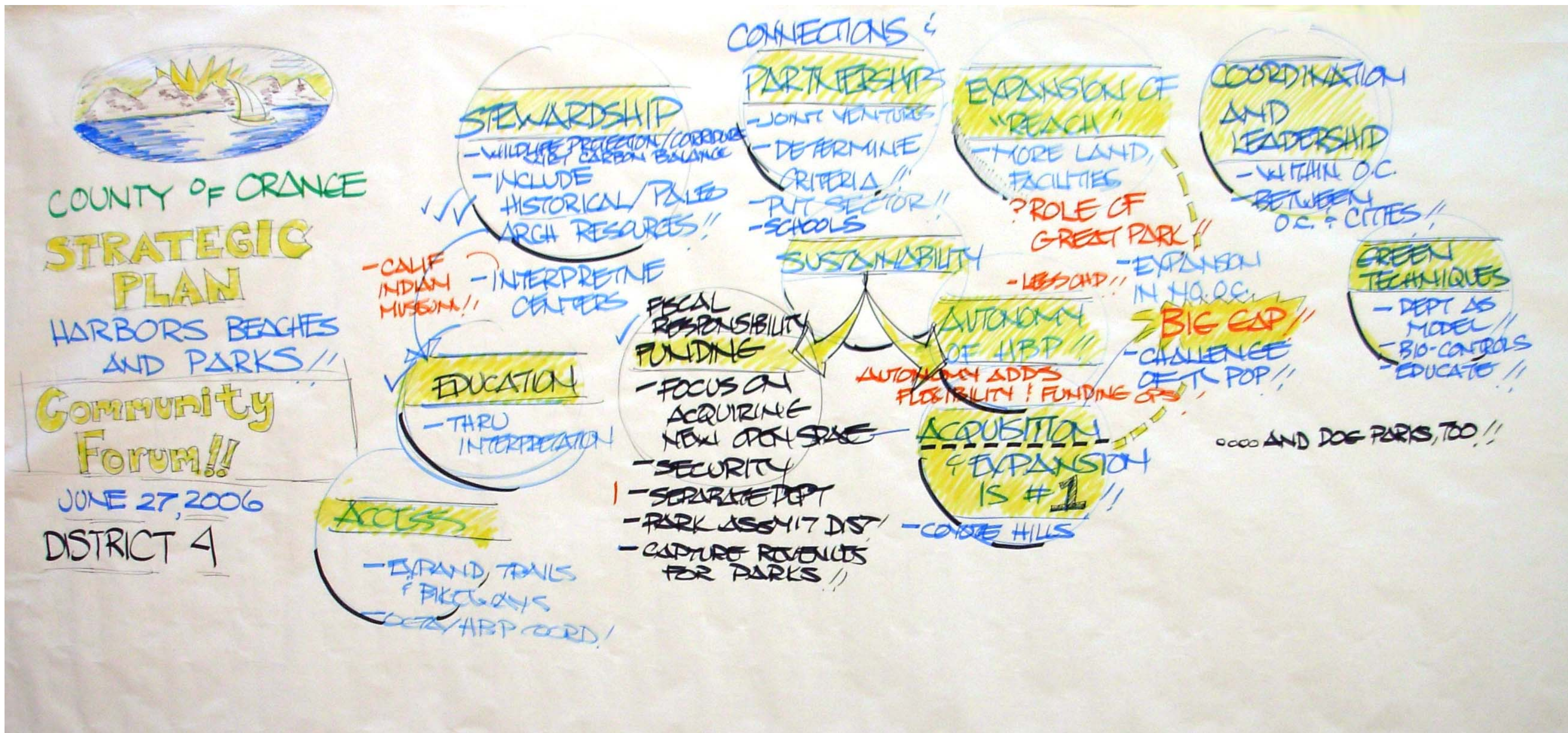


Harbors Beaches and Parks

STRATEGIC PLAN
COMMUNITY FORUM
JUNE 19, 2006 //

Upper Newport Bay
Nature Reserve







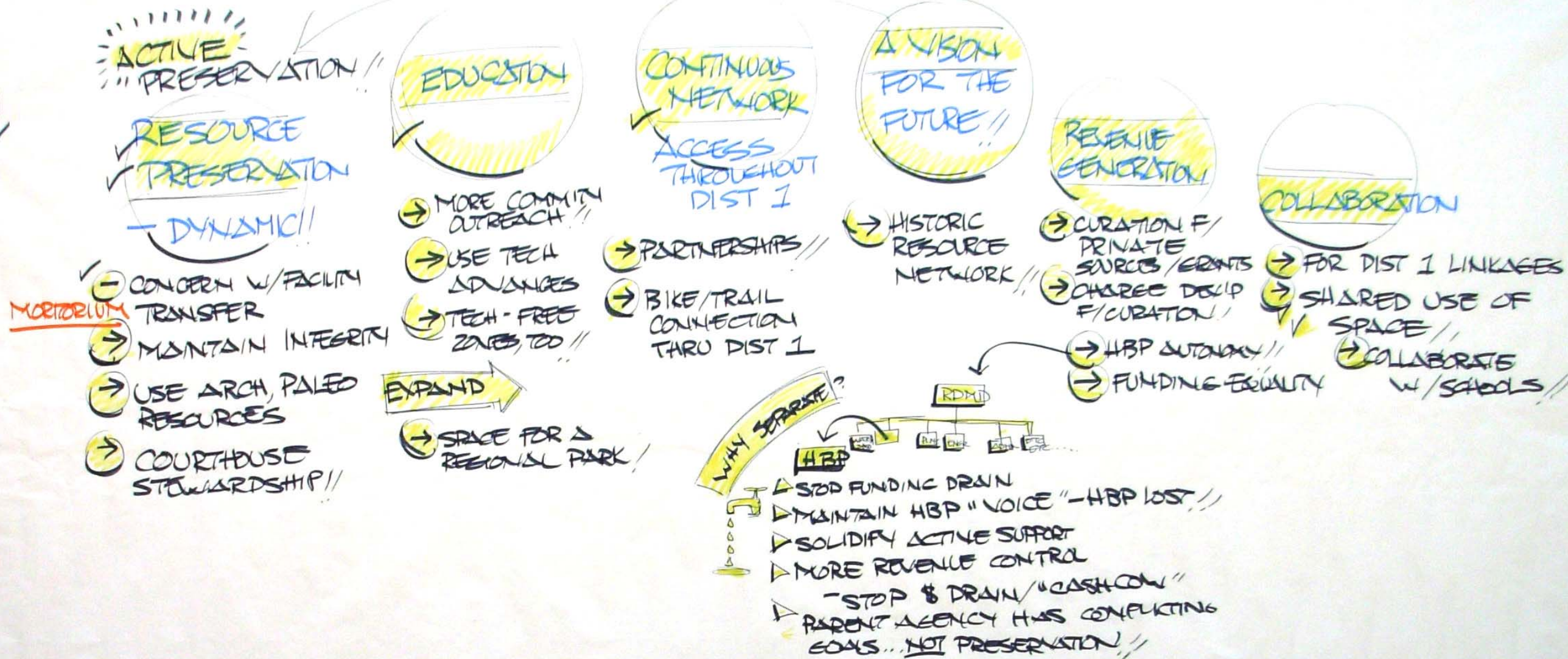
COUNTY OF ORANGE HARBORS, BEACHES & PARKS

STRATEGIC PLAN


COMMUNITY FORUM

DISTRICT 1

JUNE 28, 2006



COUNTY OF ORANGE



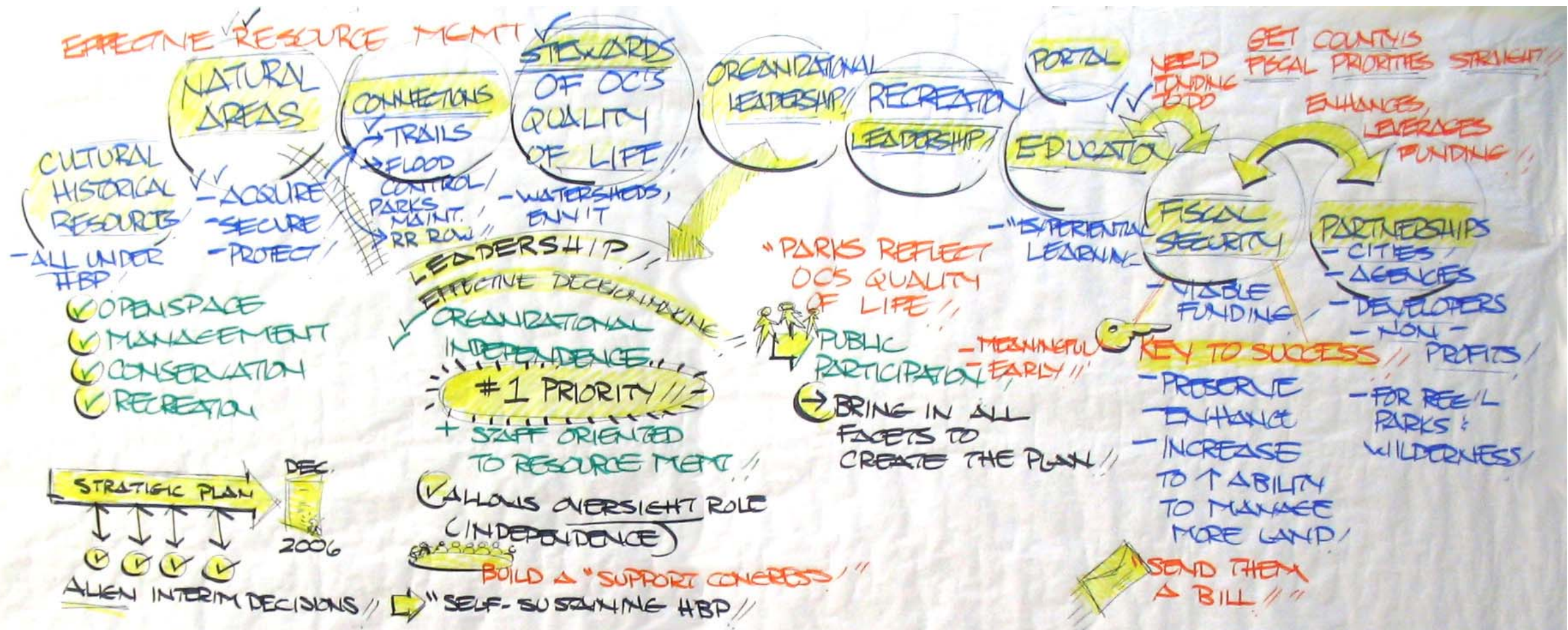
HARBORS, BEACHES AND PARKS

STRATEGIC PLAN

DISTRICT 5

COMMUNITY FORUM

JULY 6, 2006





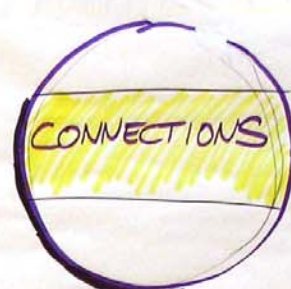
Harbors Beaches & Parks

STRATEGIC PLAN
COMMUNITY FORUM
JULY 12, 2006

IRVINE REGIONAL PARK
#5



- BRIDGE TO THE PAST
- FOSSIL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES
- IDENTIFY VALUE & AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY
- YOUTH-FOCUSED
↳ CREATE STEWARDS FOR THE FUTURE
- MUSEUMS SPECIFIC TO EACH FACILITY IN COUNTY



- BETWEEN PARKS
- THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS
- EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES
- TRAIL ACCESS THAT IS SENSITIVE TO WILD
- TRANSIT SERVICE TO PARKS



- CREATE INDEPENDENT HBP
- ID AND DEVOTE RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION
- STAFF
- BUSINESS MODEL TO RUN HBP
- PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY TO ID RESOURCES
↳ CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS



- ACQUIRE LAND
- PROTECT WILDERNESS & CHARACTER
- PROTECT NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
- USE BOTH FEES & BONDS
- STAFF TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON MANAGEMENT
- DEDICATED FACILITIES TO FLORA/FAUNA PRESERVES



- PROACTIVE
- OUTREACH
- VISIBLE LEADER IN THE COUNTY
- CO-OPERATE WITH CITIES & AGENCIES
- PARTNER WITH PRIVATE SECTOR
- MORE ACTIVE POLITICAL SUPPORT



- YOUTH
- ADA
- PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES
- PARTNERSHIPS
- MARKETING OF PARKS & RESOURCES
- ZOO, DOG PARK
- MATH FACILITIES TO POPULATION GROWTH
- SIMPLIFY VOLUNTEER PROCESS

"CREATE A FIRST-CLASS PARKS SYSTEM"

↳ HOW DO EQUESTRIANS FIT IN?

"OUT OF THE BOX & IN TO THE PARKS!!"

"PROTECT THE COURTHOUSE!"

"SAVE THE LIONS!"