

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF BOARD MEMBERS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

June 7, 2011

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Alameda County/EBRPD Liaison Committee (4/14/11) (Sutter)

Attendees:

Alameda County
Supervisors:

None

Staff:

Chris Gray, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Scott Haggerty's Office; Seth Kaplan, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Nate Miley's Office; Chris Miley, Supervisor's Aide, Nadia Lockyer's Office; Louie Martinez, Administrative Analyst, County Administrator's Office; Albert Lopez, Planning Director; Hank Ackerman, Flood Control Program Manager, ACPWA; Rory MacNeil, Chief Real Estate Division, ACPWA; Art Carrera, Principal Civil Engineer, ACPWA

East Bay Regional Park
District Board Members:

John Sutter, Ayn Wieskamp

Staff:

Erich Pfuehler, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs; Carol Johnson, AGM, Public Affairs; John Escobar, AGM, Operations; Mike Anderson, AGM, Planning/Stewardship and Development; Sue Rogers, Confidential Secretary, General Manager's Office

Guests:

None

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's Chief of Staff Chris Gray called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

In order to accommodate staff schedules agenda item 2 was presented as item 3 in the minutes.

I. Update on San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) Project Impact on Sunol Regional Wilderness

EBRPD AGM of Operations John Escobar provided background and an update about the project. District staff has been working with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) for the past two years to fully understand the possible impacts of the planned reconstruction of the Calaveras Dam at Sunol Regional Wilderness and to agree on appropriate mitigation measures. The project is currently scheduled to begin during the summer of 2011. There will be significant impacts, particularly travel in and out of the park along Calaveras Road. Park closure, however, is extremely unlikely. Though the park will remain open during construction, Monday through Friday school-age programs will be moved to other parks in the area. Day use will continue, but the small family campground will be closed. The park will be more unattended as staff and the park resident will be moved offsite for the duration of the project.

Since late 2010, District staff has been negotiating with SFPUC staff to reach a mutually agreeable settlement that would mitigate the impacts of the project on Sunol Regional Wilderness. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved the settlement agreement on Tuesday March 15, 2011. The terms of this agreement include a \$2 million payment to the District, use of a corporation yard in the Town of Sunol for the duration of the project, as well as design and construction of a park water system and replacement of the Geary Road Bridge at the sole expense of SFPUC. Mr. Gray commented the County has come to agreement with SFPUC for a water system to Sunol for fire suppression, the repaving of Calaveras Road to the Santa Clara County line and the addition of a bike lane. The County is still working on some of the challenges with the bike lane. SFPUC is donating the land, but funding for the project is still in question.

Mr. Escobar continued the construction project provides for the closure of Calaveras Road at Geary Road, Monday through Friday, 24 hours per day, for the duration of the rock hauling operation which is estimated to be most of the first two years. During the closure periods Sunol Regional Wilderness will, in effect, become the end of a dead-end road. Since the park will also be without a security resident for the duration of the project, the District will be working with SFPUC and the affected private property owners to secure permission from Alameda County to gate Geary Road at Calaveras Road after park hours. Staff will continue to work with SFPUC to preserve access to the park throughout the four-year construction project.

Mr. Escobar stated the building of the Geary Road Bridge will occur in the four to five year construction window. Once the dam is complete, SFPUC is required to keep the creek "wet" year-round. The bridge will be built during the summer when the creek is dry. There will most likely be an additional agreement for bridge construction. The SFPUC will be responsible for securing the proper permits. The District may use some of its \$2 million to construct a low-limit bridge over the creek to support pickup trucks. It would be the District's responsibility to complete the environmental work for the low-limit bridge.

Mr. Escobar added the agreement contains a number of other conditions to ensure a more favorable long-term parkland lease agreement for Sunol. For example, most of the land within the Sunol Regional Wilderness is owned by the SFPUC and leased by the District. The District has been paying the property tax on this land for approximately 25 to 30 years. Included in the

settlement, SFPUC staff agrees to take a new lease to the commission by the end of 2011, and the District will no longer have to pay the property taxes. This will financially benefit the District by approximately \$80,000 a year.

2. Healthy Parks, Healthy People

EBRPD AGM of Public Affairs Carol Johnson distributed information packets and introduced the District's Healthy Parks, Healthy People Initiative. Healthy Parks, Healthy People was founded by Parks Victoria in Australia. It has been embraced by 35 countries who share a mission to increase the use of parks, and make the connection between parks and improved public health. Children are at special risk, as sedentary lifestyles have removed them from a connection with nature and the outdoors as a component of healthy exercise.

As the largest network of urban regional parks in the nation and an internationally-recognized leader in park development and management, the East Bay Regional Park District has a special leadership place in the effort to educate the public about the vital role parks play in nurturing individual well-being, community health and a sense of community pride. The District is currently working with the National Park Service and California State Parks to coordinate an outreach effort. The combined effort will bring health and wellness to the forefront and is gathering partners who will communicate through various agencies how this initiative can make a difference in the obesity epidemic.

The District is, in part, aligning this initiative with President Obama's Great Outdoors Initiative and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative to solve the epidemic of childhood obesity. The District is providing programming and partnerships that are directed at motivating children to be active outdoors. One partnership is with Kaiser Permanente, who sponsors the District's Trails Challenge. This partnership has been very positive and Kaiser now uses the program in Santa Clara County and Southern California. They have embraced the program as part of their health care prevention efforts.

Kaiser has provided the District with data on health care issues for their East Bay patient population, which shows the areas of greatest need for health care intervention. In addition, Kaiser has provided an overlay map which compares their data to the proximity of local parks. The District appreciates receiving this sort of information which shows the benefits of parks and open space in relation to health and wellness of the community.

The National Parks Service (NPS) recently hosted a meeting at Cavallo Point, chaired by NPS Director Jon Jarvis, which included a select group of CEOs, medical organizations, and public and park agency representatives including the District. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to roll out Healthy Parks, Healthy People nationwide, starting with the Bay Area on the West Coast.

Ms. Johnson indicated the District is very interested to see any Alameda County data or research on its residents so they can overlay this data in relationship to the regional parks. The District will soon have a website feature that will allow users to type in their address and access information about the closest parks, trails and other amenities in their immediate area. This will also allow doctors to "prescribe" certain activities to patients based on activity level

and degree of difficulty. This is something to which the District wants to ensure County medical staff has access, and wants to communicate to the County what amenities the District offers. Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's Chief of Staff Seth Kaplan expressed a high level of enthusiasm for this initiative and for partnering with the District. He offered the County already has map overlays that can be readily accessible to the District. Mr. Gray suggested the District start at the top and meet with the County Health Director Alex Briscoe for the best advice on how to proceed, connect with the right contacts and disseminate information.

Ms. Johnson summarized the District is anxious to partner with the County. Whatever outreach mechanism the County has through each supervisor's office or county-wide programming is much appreciated. Ms. Johnson stated the more the District and the County can coordinate their efforts, in terms of outreach and planning, the better served constituents will be.

3. Hayward Shoreline Levee Design

EBRPD AGM Planning/Stewardship and Development Mike Anderson explained the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) projected sea level rise data has prompted efforts by the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA) to complete a preliminary study on the issue. Mr. Anderson displayed a map showing the projections of sea level rise along the Hayward shoreline over a period of one hundred years. Many significant utilities and important infrastructure will be affected, including the loss of mitigation created at Cogswell and Oro Loma marshes.

The City of Hayward has submitted an application to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Army Corps of Engineers authorization bill to strengthen existing levees and to fund a pilot study for addressing this challenge. Success in the WRDA process requires support at the federal legislative level. Mr. Anderson indicated Alameda County Flood Control's (ACFC) assistance would be helpful as there are several channels within the reach of the project, including Sulfur Creek and Bockman Channel, which should be of concern to ACFC. The District believes bringing all the agencies in the area together as stakeholders would make a convincing argument for federal funding. Concurrently, HASPA will continue to focus on getting a vulnerability study completed to determine a logical priority for funding acquisition.

The proposed pilot program could help protect the levees from sea level rise by using dredge spoils in slurry, to raise the grade of Oro Loma and Cogswell marshes slowly over time. Effluent from the nearby East Bay Dischargers Authority (EBDA) pipeline could be used to create brackish marshes that support a more aggressive growth of cattails which would raise wetlands to match sea level rise. The ability of the marsh vegetation to attenuate the forces of storm driven waves could take the pressure off the levees. These elements are part of the WRDA proposal.

Alameda County Flood Control Program Manager Hank Ackerman suggested the District join the County's working group with FEMA and the Army Corps. The County is spearheading the idea of creating a "land mass" which would be wide enough to not be considered a structural levee. The advantage is that a land mass is not limited by the structural standards required for

a levee and this seems to be an agreeable solution. Mr. Anderson responded there are multiple agency regulations in opposition to the filling of wetland areas. Mr. Ackerman responded that about a month ago the County convinced the State Coastal Commission, Fish and Game and FEMA that the land mass idea was a valid solution so he feels things are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Ackerman commented his department has lots of information that could be helpful and he would like to sit down with District staff to share.

4. Public Comments: None
5. Next meeting: A possible date of the 3rd Thursday in July was proposed pending review of calendars.
6. Next topics:

EBRPD Board Member John Sutter suggested that the Flood Control Channel in Union City and the connection with the Bay Trail be on a future agenda. The District is having a difficulty with designating the Bay Trail route through Union City because of the uncertainty of what Alameda County Flood Control is going to do. Mr. Ackerman responded the habitat plan is still being worked out and believes it is at least a year away before a determination can be made on where the trail can align.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Gray at 11:10 a.m.