

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

East Bay Regional Park District

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Executive (7/23/09) \_\_\_\_\_ (Radke)

Attendees:

Committee Members: Directors Ted Radke (Chair), Ayn Wieskamp, Beverly Lane (alternate)

Staff Members: Pat O'Brien, Dave Collins, Mike Anderson, Brian Weise, David Amme, Julie Bondurant, Steve Edwards

I. East Bay Hills Wildfire Hazard Reduction & Resource Management Plan

Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning and Stewardship, gave a presentation on this item and stated that it has its beginnings from the Tunnel Fire of 1991 and that it examines public parklands and the roles that the public agencies play in preventing wildfires. Mr. Wiese noted that the District hired a consultant in 2006 with Measure CC funds to prepare an environmental analysis of the effects of fuels management work. *LSA Associates* of Berkeley was hired to prepare a fuels management plan and EIR, and facilitate a public process leading to adoption by the EBPRD Board. It catalogs fuels and resource conditions, management goals and treatment recommendations for each of 120 treatment polygons. Treatment recommendations are based on many variables. He added that the Plan's purpose is to provide a policy guide which will enable Park District Board and management to make ongoing decisions regarding fuels management priorities and expenditures in a flexible, adaptive manner over the coming years.

Mr. Wiese noted that the Plan covers 13 hills parks and 7 shoreline parks within the Measure CC funding area. The study area covers 19,000 acres within an area about 2- 1/2 miles wide by 26 miles long. Within that area, about 3,000 acres are targeted as recommended fuels treatment areas.

Mr. Wiese explained that staff is requesting the Executive Committee to recommend the issuance of the East Bay Hills Wildfire Reduction and Resource Management Plan and EIR for public review next week. An extensive public input process has already been started, but this public review would last for 60 days into October, at which point the Plan would go before the Board again for final approval.

Director Wieskamp wanted to know the feasibility and cost of treating all 120 polygons; Chief Swanson indicated that although each new treatment polygon can cost up to \$70,000 per acre, once treatments have been done, the maintenance costs drop to about \$10,000. He stated that there is a mix of funding (Measure CC, grants and Capital Projects) that can support the Plan's priorities.

Director Siden wanted to know about how this Plan is budgeted; AGM of Finance and Management Services Dave Collins explained that there are Measure CC and grant funds available, and that capital funds that have been put aside throughout the years. GM Pat O'Brien reminded the group about the funds that the District will be losing from the State, and how those measurable losses in revenue will play a role in budgeting for this and other items.

### **Public Comments:**

- Peter Rausch, speaking as a resident of Kensington and Ward I, asked for clarification on the type of EIR to be reviewed in the plan. Mr. Rausch stated that it is clear that some vegetation in this area not maintained by the District is not ready for the next fire and felt that the District has done its part to control fuels but hopes that other agencies follow in the District's footsteps. Referring to the 20-year timeline in the plan, he remarked that the longer the plan takes to implement, the more wildfires will occur, and mentioned that he feels comfortable with the overall plan.

Discussion on possible partnerships with UC Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore Labs as well as other fuels management programs being implemented by State Parks were discussed.

- Lech Naumovich from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) addressed the group, noting his appreciation of Mr. Wiese's emphasis on how important the consistent monitoring of progress is. He noted that CNPS is interested in this Plan, however; one level of information that is missing is "real-life" information, i.e. if you cut a polygon, what does it look like the next year and/or in three years? He would like to see that shown, and stressed its value.

**RECOMMENDATION: By motion of Director Siden and second by Director Wieskamp, the Executive Committee unanimously recommended the East Bay Hills Wildfire Hazard Reduction & Resource Management Plan be released for public review.**

## **2. Committee for Industrial Safety Sponsorship Support for Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol**

GM Pat O'Brien introduced this item and explained that the Committee for Industrial Safety (CIS) is made up of refineries such as Chevron, Shell, Conoco Phillips, etc. and supports community activities and safety. In discussions with the General Manager and other District staff regarding their interest to sponsor and support a District program, the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol Program was suggested as an appropriate potential sponsorship candidate due to the size and scope of its volunteer base as well as its need for important equipment to enhance the efficiency and public profile of this program.

AGM of Public Safety Tim Anderson stated that CIS had asked him to put together a "wish-list" for the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol program; AGM Anderson then prepared a report, with the input of staff, which outlined specific equipment needs - including a dedicated vehicle and cargo trailer to be used by the Volunteer Coordinator for carrying supplies various needs like special events,

trainings and other VTSP activities, new uniforms and display booths for outreach events and informational checkpoints.

Each of these items would provide an opportunity for CIS to subtly be “branded” through acknowledgement of their sponsorship, while at the same time greatly increasing the visibility of the VTSP and the important work its members do on behalf of the District. AGM Anderson discussed a wraparound graphic for the vehicles, and introduced AGM of Public Affairs, Rosemary Cameron, who noted what a great opportunity a wraparound graphic as a moving billboard is.

AGM Cameron explained that CIS is understanding of District branding and taste, and assured the group that Public Affairs would be able to come up with a design that works for both the District and CIS. In turn, the District would acknowledge the sponsorship from CIS publicly.

Currently, the District is awaiting the final approval from CIS.

**This was an informational item only; no recommendation is necessary.**