

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Board Executive Committee (6/24/2014) _____ (Wieskamp)

Present

Board: Ayn Wieskamp (Chair), Whitney Dotson, John Sutter

Staff: Robert Doyle, Tim Anderson, Dave Collins, Brad Gallup, Matt Graul, Brian Holt, Dan McCormick, Bob Nisbet, Jim O'Connor, Jessica Sheppard, Larry Tong, Carol Victor,

Public: Beverly Lane, Jerry Baer, Dan Grasseti, Madeline Hovland, Gene Robertson, Peter Scott, Ciara Woods

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

I. Authorization to Transfer Board Contingency Funds: Buckeye Flat Staging Area, Briones Regional Park

Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager for Operations, presented this agenda item.

In 1999, the Board adopted the Buckeye Ranch Land Use Plan Amendment (“LUPA”) for Briones Regional Park. The adopted LUPA identified the need for development of a public staging area and modest recreational facilities. The staging area development will be located at the site known as Buckeye Flat. Recent improvements to the site include addition of picnic tables, parking spaces, and fencing. These improvements have been paid from the Operations Contingency account. The final improvement includes the installation of a CXT vault toilet, and staff is requesting \$15,000 from the Board Contingency account to help fund this improvement. Director Sutter commented that access to the site is limited due to the road conditions, and that road signage is needed in the area. Director Wieskamp inquired about the timeline for installing the CXT vault toilet, and staff should consider organizing naturalist led programs at the site. Mr. O'Connor responded that staff is working with the county on obtaining permits and anticipates that the CXT vault toilet will be installed in the next few months. General Manager Robert Doyle thanked staff for their work on the project and looked forward to its completion.

By motion of Director Sutter and seconded by Director Wieskamp, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to approve and recommend to the full Board the transfer of \$15,000 from the Board Contingency account to the Buckeye Flat Staging Area improvement project.

2. Update on Concord Naval Weapons Station

Brian Holt, Senior Planner, presented this agenda item.

Mr. Holt gave a brief overview of the property location and project timeline. The proposed park will be called the Concord Hills Regional Park. In 2010, the City of Concord, acting as the Local Reuse Authority, initiated a multi-year community planning process culminating in the adoption of a Reuse Plan ("Plan"). This Plan was further refined and integrated into the City's General Plan through the adoption of the Concord Reuse Project Area Plan in 2012. Mr. Holt showed a PowerPoint presentation of the City's plan which includes homes, office/commercial spaces, college, and regional park. The City's plan has a 35+ year build out. The District entered into a memorandum of understanding with the National Park Service to develop a visitor center commemorating the Port Chicago National Memorial. The site location has yet to be identified. The Navy is expected to release their draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") in the fall of 2014 for public review and comment. Staff anticipates that the Navy will complete a record of decision for the EIS and prepare a finding of suitability for transfer ("FOST") for the first phase of property conveyance by the end of 2015. Approximately 2,453 acres of land to be conveyed to the District are included in the initial FOST.

General Manager Robert Doyle commented that the City is supportive of creating a regional park, and that it will be a valuable asset to the community. The Committee inquired about existing trails and potential trail connections from BART, existing communities, and Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. There was discussion about the outdated infrastructures, and the estimated costs to bring the infrastructures up to date. The Committee complemented Mr. Holt on his work on the project.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. 2015 Fuels Management Program and Fuels Costs Analysis

General Manager Robert Doyle introduced this agenda. This is the third year that staff has presented its annual fuels management program of work before the Committee.

Dan McCormick, Fire Chief, gave an overview of the 2010 Board approved Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan. Mr. McCormick discussed the various factors staff considers when planning for future work. The factors include permitting, fire hazards, staff, and funding.

Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manger, discussed the various grants and funding sources that the District receives to undertake the program. This includes FEMA grant money, Measure CC funds, and state grants. The Grants Department is continuously looking for new grants to help fund future maintenance. Director Sutter commented about future funding sources and grants, and asked staff to elaborate on Attachment B. He also inquired about public notification of today's meeting.

Becky Pheng, Legal Assistant/Paralegal, responded that copies of the meeting agenda were sent to over 100 people, and the agenda and packet are posted on-line the same day that it is distributed to the Committee.

Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, talked about the required permits and the maintenance and monitoring plan. The District is required to prepare and submit annual studies to the USFWS, establish permanent conservation easements, and perform additional monitoring and management work beyond that already established in the Plan. Director Sutter asked staff to provide clarification on the management area and whether the area will impact public use. Staff responded that the management area being considered has very little, if no, potential for impacting public use.

Brad Gallup, Fire Captain, gave an overview of the 2015 work plan. In 2015, the District anticipates undertaking initial entry of approximately 400 acres. Mr. Gallup presented a table which lists the RTA's, by park, that are scheduled to be completed in 2014 and 2015. The Committee commented on a recent report by Jerry Kent on future cost projections, and asked staff to comment on the report. Mr. Gallup responded that he has read the report and that he does not agree with the projections. Mr. Doyle commented that future cost to fund the complete project is very expensive and that staff will continue to analyze costs.

Public Comments:

Dan Grassetti commented on Jerry Kent's report and thanked District staff for their work over the past several years.

Jerry Baer commented that he does not agree with Jerry Kent's cost projections.

Gene Robertson commented on Jerry Kent's report, requested that staff send earlier notification of the meeting next year, and would like to establish a forum with fire and stewardship staff.

Madeline Hovland commented that she is interested in fire mitigation and removing brush to save her property.

Ciara Woods commented that she is interested in balancing fuel management and habitat, and that she is concerned with willows in her neighborhood.

Peter Scott commented that he does not agree with Jerry Kent's numbers, and that he is avid supporter of fire mitigation, not eucalyptus eradication.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng