

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA

Tuesday, March 11, 2013
12:45 – 2:45 pm, Board Room

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

AGENDA

STATUS	TIME	ITEM	STAFF
(I)	12:45	Using Social Media to Understand Public Perceptions of Cattle Grazing in Parks	(Barry)
(I)	1:15	Golden Eagles, Wind Farms and Environmental Sustainability	(Bell)
(I)	1:45	Introduction of Cultural Services Coordinator Beverly R. Ortiz, Ph.D.	(O'Connor)
(D)	2:15	Future Agenda Items	(Althoff)
(D)	2:30	Public Comment	(Dotson)
(R)		Recommendation for Future Board Consideration	
(I)		Information	
(D)		Discussion	

Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee Members:
Whitney Dotson (Chair), Beverly Lane, Carol Severin, John Sutter (Alternate)
Diane Althoff, Staff Coordinator

Staff

Pete Alexander
Yolande Barial
Doug Bell
Steve Bobzien
Julie Bondurant
Raphael Breines
Casey Brierley
Susan Chambers
Dave Collins
Denise Defreese
Robert E. Doyle
Dave Drueckhammer
Ron Gartland
Matt Graul
Kara Hass
Emily Hopkins
Michelle Julene
Nancy Kaiser
Anne Kassebaum
Sue Kyle
Hal MacLean
Mary Mattingly
Paul Miller
Mike Nolan
Jim O'Connor
Brad Olson
Beverly Ortiz
Leigh Padmore
Meg Peterson
Lane Powell
Allen Pulido

Ted Radke
Ted Radosevich
Mark Ragatz
Dave Riensche
Davio Santos
Anne Scheer
Warren Schultz
Robin Secrist
Carol Severin
Jessica Sheppard
Doug Siden
Elmer Sorto
Dania Stoneham
Joe Sullivan
Connie Swisher
Kevin Takei
Carol Victor
Rafael Breines

Public

Judi Bank
Bruce Beyaert
Afton Crooks
Rich Guarienti
Robert Hines
David Julian
Ralph Kanz
Jakki Kehl
Norman LaForce
Glen Lewis
William McClung
Peter Rauch
Robert Wills

AGENDA SUMMARY

Using Social Media to Understand Public Perceptions of Cattle Grazing in Parks (Barry)

Sheila Barry, UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor recently published a study that explored the use of personal photography in social media to gain insight into public perceptions of livestock grazing in public spaces. Traditional public input methods yield a constrained picture of people's attitudes toward cows and public land grazing. Public meetings, hearings, and surveys, the most commonly used mechanisms for public land managers to solicit public opinion, tend to foster participation of organized special interests or, in the case of surveys, focus on a specific topic. General public input is limited. Key findings of this study include that many recreationist in grazed San Francisco Bay Area parks shared views, interests and concerns about cows and grazing on the photo-sharing website, Flickr™ that seldom show up at a public meeting or in surveys. Results suggest that social media analysis can help develop a more nuanced understanding of public viewpoints useful in making decisions and creating outreach and education programs for public grazing lands.

Golden Eagles, Wind Farms and Environmental Sustainability (Bell)

Environmental sustainability as a goal is difficult to achieve and hard to measure. While wind farms may represent a sustainable source of energy, they may have unsustainable impacts to wildlife populations. The eastern San Francisco Bay Area harbors one of the densest nesting populations of golden eagles in the world. Yet, the nearby Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA), with its old wind turbine infrastructure, is responsible for such high mortality rates among golden eagles that it represents a population sink. In other words, the local population of golden eagles cannot reproduce enough young to compensate for the loss of eagles in the APWRA. This situation is unsustainable for the local golden eagle population. The East Bay Regional Park District and associated colleagues are researching ways in which to lessen the impact of wind energy production on golden eagles in the APWRA by using eagle flight behavior combined with digital elevation modeling to create risk maps for use in the repowering of wind farms. Repowering is the process of replacing old generation wind turbines with new generation "mega" wind turbines. It is imperative to site these new wind turbines using the best available science to lessen their impacts to golden eagles and other wildlife and thereby create a more environmentally sustainable situation.

Introduction of Cultural Services Coordinator Beverly R. Ortiz, Ph.D. (O'Connor)

Assistant General Manager Jim O'Connor will provide a brief overview of the overall Cultural Services Coordinator job duties and tasks to be undertaken in the coming months.