

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Board Executive Committee (2/05/2016) (Siden)

Present

Board: Doug Siden, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane

Staff: Robert Doyle, Debra Auker, Sukari Beshears, Sean Dougan, Adora Nnoruka, Bob Nisbet, Jim O'Connor, Becky Pheng

Public: Kelly Abreu, Rick Rickard, Eri Suzuki (Local 2428)

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

I. **Niles Canyon Trail Connectivity Study**

Bob Nisbet, Assistant General Manager, provided a short history of the project and introduced Sean Dougan, Trails Development Program Manager.

Mr. Dougan presented a PowerPoint highlighting the Niles Canyon Trail Connectivity Study (Study). The Park District in partnership with the County of Alameda, Alameda County Water District, and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission completed the Study in 2015. The Study includes alternatives for a six-mile Class I trail connecting Niles to Sunol. This proposed trail is identified in the Park District's 2013 Master Plan Update.

Several public meetings were held to collect comments and concerns from the public between October 2014 and October 2015. As a result of the meetings, three alternative routes were identified. The Study analyzes the potential environmental and historical impacts of each alternative route. Mr. Dougan summarized each of the three alternative routes: Project 1 – connection to the Ridge Trail; Project 2 – path from Sunol Water Temple to Vargas; and Project 3 – path from Niles to Sunol.

There was discussion about the environmental impacts and costs associated with each alternative. At this time, there is no identified funding source and no lead agency. Robert Doyle, General Manager, reiterated that this is just a study which the District received a grant to help fund the study in the early 1990s. Since no funding source has been identified, and it is unknown when the project will commence. Mr. Doyle also talked briefly about the history of the land and

the recreational use in the area. Most of the property in the area is now owned by the county. Niles Canyon (Highway 84) is a very busy corridor and is becoming increasingly dangerous for bicyclists. Director Beverly Lane commented that this is a very complex project and inquired about the county's participation. Director Doug Siden inquired about the aqueduct and ways to educate the public about the creek.

Rick Rickard commented that Niles Canyon is dangerous, and there have been many bicyclists involved accidents and deaths. Creating a safe trail is a priority for the bicycle community.

Kelly Abreu commented about the history of the area and the increasing traffic in the area. He noted that there are cheaper alternatives that need to be analyzed.

The Committee asked about next steps. Staff responded that they will be meeting with the county in the coming months. More information will be provided as the project progresses.

Recommendation: None. This is an informational item.

2. Restatement of General Employees and Sworn Safety Retirement Plans

Sukari Beshears, Human Resources Manager, presented this agenda item. The District's retirement plans are periodically reviewed to ensure compliance with IRS code and regulations. The plans were last amended in 2011 to comply with tax laws and PEPRA. The amendments proposed at this time are non-substantive. Staff has provided both Local 2428 and the Police Association with copies of the proposed amendments.

Director Beverly Lane mentioned that the item was rather confusing and unclear, particularly the names of the retirement plans, and asked for clarification. Mr. Doyle recognized that there has been confusion over the plans and amendments. He gave a short history of the Transamerica Plan, which no longer exists, and requested that staff provide more clarification when this is brought to the full Board for consideration.

Eri Suzuki commented that the union has requested additional information from Human Resources on this item, and asked how this may affect their members. The union still has not received the requested information from Human Resources. She stated that the union does not oppose the amendments and understands that it must be amended from time-to-time to comply with tax laws.

Director Doug Siden asked if Human Resources could answer/respond to Ms. Suzuki. Adora Nnoruka, Benefits Manager, responded to Ms. Suzuki that the members affected did receive retroactive payments. Ms. Nnoruka's responses were acceptable to Ms. Suzuki.

By motion of Director Dotson and seconded by Director Lane, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to approve the proposed changes to the Restatement of General Employees and Sworn Safety Retirement Plans and to forward a favorable recommendation to the full Board of Directors for approval.

3. Public Comment

Kelly Abreu commented about the proposed parcel tax to save the plan, an article in the *San Jose Mercury* news about the measure, and progressive taxation which he favors.

Abreu recommended that staff address the Vargas to Sunol project as a first priority.

4. Board Comments

Director Beverly Lane commented that she has received some concerns from retirees regarding their benefits and retirement calculations. She would like the District to look into job descriptions and equity in pay.

Director Doug Siden thanked the Committee members for adjusting their calendars to accommodate Friday meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng