

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Executive Committee (7/6/2017) _____ (Lane)

Present

Board: Ayn Wieskamp, Dennis Waespi, Whitney Dotson (Alt.)

Staff: Robert Doyle, Ana Alvarez, Becky Pheng, Brad Gallup, Aileen Theile, John Swanson, Chris Barton, Jeff Rasmussen, Jim O'Connor, Debra Auker, Matt Graul, Karla Cuervo, Bob Nisbet, Dave Mason, Kristen Van Dam

Public: Jeff Peters, Eri Suzuki (Local 2428)

Board Executive Committee Chair Beverly Lane was absent from this meeting. Director Whitney Dotson attended as the alternate. Director Ayn Wieskamp presided over the meeting and called it to order at 12:33 pm.

I. 2017 Fuels Management Program of Work

Interim Fire Chief John Swanson introduced this agenda item. He gave a short overview of the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan. Fire Captain Brad Gallup talked about the Nimitz Way fuels management project at Tilden Regional Park. The project commenced in May 2016 and ended in April 2017. The objectives are to thin eucalyptus stand, remove surface and ladder fuels, and reduce crown fire protentional. The project cost is \$225,000; funding for the project came from the US Forest Service. Mr. Gallup showed before and after photos and talked about continuing maintenance once a project is completed. Fire Captain Aileen Theile talked about the hazardous fuels reduction projects at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. The treatment area is approximately 44 acres. Only 14 acres have been treated. The project objectives are to thin eucalyptus stand; remove surface and ladder fuels; and reduce fuel loading, crown fire potential, and intensity of wildland fires on steep slopes near homes, picnic areas, and trails within the park. The project cost is \$100,000, with funding from Measure CC. Subsequently, the District received a \$75,000 PG&E grant to offset the cost. This is the second PG&E grant received by the District. Each treatment area is treated differently using a variety of methods. Ms. Theile emphasized that this treatment area is located near a lot

of homes and it is important to undertake this fuels management project in order to protect the residents in the area.

Interim Fire Chief John Swanson spoke briefly about past fuels management project undertaken by the District. The District is making progress, and still has many more years of work to undertake. General Manager Robert Doyle commented on the importance of documenting (by taking pictures) the fuels management project. The pictures are helpful in showing and educating the public on the work that is being undertaken. Director Dennis Waespi inquired about the number of trees removed as part of the fuels management projects, acknowledging that this is hard to quantify. Mr. Doyle followed up that having this data is important because Boardmembers often receive requests for this information. Staff responded that it is very difficult to gather that data, and will try to sample a site to determine an approximate number. Mr. Doyle responded that there is a lot of misinformation about what the District is doing and the number of trees being removed. Director Ayn Wieskamp also stressed the importance of having this information, and suggested that a forestry intern undertake this study. District Counsel Carol Victor noted that the settlement agreement with Hills Conservation Network did not change the Board approved Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

2. Coyote Hills (Patterson) Restoration and Public Access Project

Environmental Programs Manager Chris Barton presented this agenda item. This project is located in Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont, and includes part of the Patterson Ranch (296 acres) and Church parcel (10 acres). Mr. Barton showed a map of the project area and gave an overview of the history of the land acquisition of the park, which is approximately 1,274 acres.

Mr. Barton highlighted the goals of the project, which are broken up into three areas—agriculture, public access, and restoration. The opportunities and constraints of the project area were presented and discussed. The draft outreach and public participation plan was presented (refer to attachment to staff report). The estimated project timeline is 19 months. Project initiation (Stage 1) includes presenting the project to the Board Executive Committee, hosting a public workshop, and introducing the project to various stakeholder groups. Stage 2 includes program formulation and additional public workshop. Stage 3 includes preparation and release of the draft land use plan and CEQA documents. These documents are expected to be available in the winter of 2017 or spring of 2018. Formal Board action (Stage 4) on the project is expected in the summer of 2018.

Director Dennis Waespi inquired about Native American input on the project. Jeff Peters, the District's consultant, responded that staff has been in contact with Native American groups and will continue dialog as the project progresses. Director Ayn Wieskamp commented on the historical uses in the area and inquired about the City of Fremont and Fremont Unified School District's properties. The Board Executive Committee and staff talked about parking and pedestrian uses along Paseo Padre Parkway, which is a busy street in the City of Fremont.

Director Ayn Wieskamp commented on increasing traffic concerns and the design of the kiosk and entry way should be carefully considered.

Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

None.

4. Board Committee Comments

None.

There being no further business, Director Ayn Wieskamp declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng

