

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Executive Committee (6/17/2015) (Dotson)

Present

Board: Beverly Lane, Doug Siden, Ayn Wieskamp

Staff: Becky Pheng, Carol Victor, Dan McCormick, Brad Gallup, Jeff Rasmussen, Dave Collins, Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul

Public: Eri Suzuki (Local 2428), Jon Kaufman, Sue Piper, Joanne Draber, Marilyn Goldhaber, Jean Robertson, David Bigham, Barbara Kleger, Peter Scott, Ciara Wood, Jon Kaufman

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

I. 2016 Fuels Management Program and Costs Analysis

Dan McCormick, Fire Chief, presented this agenda item. He gave an overview of the *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan* (the Plan) and staff's effort to implement the Plan. The annual fuels management workplan is prepared by Fire and Stewardship staff and presented to the Board Executive Committee on an annual basis. Mr. McCormick gave a recap of fuels management projects undertaken in 2014, including projects at Briones and Wildcat Canyon. By the end of 2015, staff estimates that approximately 22-acres of new, initial entry work will be completed at Lake Chabot and Tilden.

In 2010, the District was awarded a grant from FEMA for vegetation work. Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship, talked about the Biological Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was drafted by FEMA. The District will be required to undertake additional management plans and studies beyond that already established in the Plan. In March 2015, a lawsuit was filed over the EIS. The Committee asked how the lawsuit will affect the District. Staff responded that the District may conduct fuels work subject to the grant funds while the litigation is pending; however, due to lead time needed for fuels project, it is expected that the litigation will be resolved before any work could begin. Mr. McCormick went over Attachment A, and noted that in 2016, approximately 90 acres of new, initial work will be undertaken.

There was discussion about the costs associated with undertaking fuels management projects. The annual maintenance work has averaged approximately \$1,200 per acre for annual treatments. Staff anticipates that this annual per-acre cost will decrease over time. Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manager, gave an overview of Attachment C and talked about existing funding sources and grants. The District has been awarded a number of grants through the Diablo Fire Safe Council, California Fire Safe Council, and FEMA. Funding for many of the grants is tied to the completion of FEMA's environmental review process. The District lost two grants due to delays in the FEMA environmental clearance. Staff will continue to look for other grant opportunities. The Committee and staff briefly discussed Measure CC and the possibility of its extension in the next few years.

Director Siden commented on the costs of undertaking fuels management projects and asked staff to clarify Attachment B. Director Lane asked if the District anticipates receiving other grant opportunities for initial entry work. Mr. Rasmussen replied that the Grants Department will be looking for additional grants. Dave Collins, Assistant General Manager, commented about Measure CC and available funding sources. Director Wieskamp asked for information about the Oakland Fire Assessment District. Carol Victor, District Counsel, responded that the proposed assessment failed by a narrow margin.

## **2. Public Comment**

Peter Scott, Jean Robertson, Ciara Wood, Sue Pieper, and Jon Kaufman commented on this agenda item. Comments include:

- Thanking and supporting the District's efforts to undertake fuels management projects.
- Encouraging the District to remove rather than thin eucalyptus trees.
- Expanding Measure CC (renewal) to include Kensington area.
- Improving dialog with District staff on the annual workplan.

## **3. Board Comments**

Director Lane inquired about annual funding commitments for fuels management project, and requested that staff provide before and after photos of the project area.

Director Wieskamp commented that it would be helpful to have a map of the Kensington area in relation to the Plan, photos of projects (before and after), and examples of adaptive management.

Director Siden thanked the public for attending and participating in the meeting. He commented on the possible renewal of Measure CC, and encouraged the public to participate in the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky K. Pheng