NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, December 3,
2014 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)	1:30	An Updated Assessment of Trail User Compliance and Trailside Erosion in Wildcat Creek, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley California	(Sullivan)
(I)	2:00	The Use of Remote Cameras to Assess Wildlife Diversity, Relative Abundance, and Density in the Sunol- Ohlone Regional Wilderness	(Bobzien)
(D)	2:30	Future Agenda Items	(Nisbet)
(D)	3:00	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
Yolande Barial
Chris Barton
Doug Bell
Steve Bobzien
Julie Bondurant
Raphael Breines
Casey Brierley
Susan Chambers
Dave Collins
Dan Cunning
Denise Defreese
Robert E. Doyle
Dave Drueckhammer
Ron Gartland
Matt Graul
Kara Hass
Michelle Julene
Anne Kassebaum
Hal MacLean
Jeff Manley
Mary Mattingly
Paul Miller
Mike Nolan
Bob Nisbet
Jim O'Connor
Beverly Ortiz
Meg Peterson
Lane Powell
Allen Pulido
Elmer Sorto
Dania Stoneham
Joe Sullivan
Connie Swisher
Kevin Takei
Larry Tong
Denise Valentine
Carol Victor

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

Ted Radke
Mark Ragatz
Dave Riensche
Warren Schultz
Robin Secrist
Carol Severin
Jessica Sheppard
Doug Siden

AGENDA SUMMARY

1. An Updated Assessment of Trail User Compliance and Trailside Erosion in Wildcat Creek, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley California (Sullivan)

Wildcat Gorge Trail along Wildcat Creek in Tilden Regional Park has been the focus of four studies completed by student interns over a decade ago to assess the potential impact of humans and dogs on sensitive native Rainbow trout, California newts and California Red-legged frogs. A study completed during the summer 2014 reassessed visitor compliance with park signage and fencing and compared it to the same study conducted a decade earlier. Results from 60 hours of observation showed that the overall number of dogs in a stream pool decreased from 44% in June 2004 to 6% in July 2014. Not a single leashed dog was seen entering the stream. Furthermore, if an owner was walking 3 or more dogs off leash, at least one of the dogs was non-compliant nearly half of the time; as opposed to 10% and 20% of the time for owners walking only 1 dog or 2 dogs off leash, respectively. This leads us to conclude that while compliance has greatly improved, the only definite ways to ensure dogs do not negatively impact the sensitive riparian habitat of Wildcat Creek is to enact a leash requirement along Gorge Trail.

2. The Use of Remote Cameras to Assess Wildlife Diversity, Relative Abundance, and Density in Sunol- Ohlone Regional Wilderness (Steve Bobzien)

District Stewardship staff, University Scientists, and other agency biologists have conducted research projects throughout the District for decades, including the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness. Although a tremendous amount of information has been collected and analyzed, many data gaps on fundamental ecology persist throughout the region. Recent technological advances allow biologists to sample and monitor animal populations without ever physically harassing, capturing or handling individuals. The use of noninvasive remote cameras sampling methods are well suited to wildlife that are elusive, difficult to detect, and occur at low densities. Ecological Service Coordinator Steve Bobzien will discuss his preliminary results from remote camera traps and illustrate their effectiveness in improving our understanding of the ecological relationships and population dynamics of wildlife in the Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness.