

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (2/18/15) (Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, Whitney Dotson, Diane Burgis

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Doug Bell, Joe Sullivan, Jim O'Connor, Bev Ortiz, Mark Ragatz, Kelly Barrington

Guests: Amelia Marshall, Carin High, Steve Wiley, Tanya Hoppes, Evelyn Cormier, Marty Morrow

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at District Headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. 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.

2. Wildcat Creek Watershed Erosion and Sediment Control Project (Sullivan)

High rates of erosion in the Wildcat Creek watershed have led to numerous issues for the East Bay Regional Park District, including instability in the main stream and tributary channels of Wildcat Creek and sediment accumulation in Jewel Lake and Lake Anza. The NewFields and Watershed Sciences team conducted a reconnaissance-level sediment source analysis that included field mapping of sediment sources and development of a GIS database of sediment sources by sub-watershed and channel unit.

After determining the sources and rates of sedimentation in the watershed above Jewel Lake, the NewFields team developed both conceptual design solutions and recommendations for erosion control at identified source points and for the long term, programmatic maintenance of the water courses in the upper watershed.

3. Future Agenda Items (Nisbet)

Chair Lane asked for a report from Bev Ortiz on Cultural Resources, as time allows.

4. Public Comment (Lane)

Ohlone Audubon Society Board Member Karen High discussed her concern with water management at Coyote Hills and the impact on biodiversity. She reported that the Christmas bird counts were low, with some species missing. The drought, along with the pump, neighbors and cattails have all been factors. Assistant General Manager Jim O'Connor said he would look into what can be done.

Steve Wiley has been following the Least Tern Project and the District has hit a home run with that. There is talk of expanding the project and he is concerned about the solution for that. It will be on the agenda in August.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
2950 Peralta Oaks Court

Oakland, CA

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
12:30 – 2:30 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)	12:30	Wildcat Creek Watershed Erosion and Sediment Control Project	(Sullivan)
(I)	1:00	Golden Eagles, Wind Farms and Environmental Sustainability	(Bell)
(D)	1:30	Future Agenda Items	(Graul)
(D)	2:00	Public Comment	(Dotson)
(R)		Recommendation for Future Board Consideration	
(I)		Information	
(D)		Discussion	

Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee Members:
Beverly Lane (Chair), Diane Burgis, Whitney Dotson, John Sutter (Alternate)
Bob Nisbet, Staff Coordinator

Staff

Yolande Barial
Chris Barton
Doug Bell
Steve Bobzien
Julie Bondurant
Raphael Breines
Casey Brierley
Diane Burgis
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

Mark Ragatz
Dave Riensche
Warren Schultz
Robin Secrist
Carol Severin
Jessica Sheppard
Doug Siden
Elmer Sorto
Dania Stoneham
Joe Sullivan
Connie Swisher
Kevin Takei
Larry Tong
Denise Valentine
Carol Victor
Dennis Waespi

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

5. Wildcat Creek Watershed Erosion and Sediment Control Project (Sullivan)

High rates of erosion in the Wildcat Creek watershed have led to numerous issues for the East Bay Region Park District, including instability in the mainstream and tributary channels of Wildcat Creek and sediment accumulation in Jewel Lake and Lake Anza. The NewFields and Watershed Sciences team conducted a reconnaissance-level sediment source analysis that included field mapping of sediment sources and development of a GIS database of sediment sources by sub-watershed and channel unit.

After determining the sources and rates of sedimentation in the watershed above Jewel Lake, the NewFields team developed both conceptual design solutions and recommendations for erosion control at identified source points and for the long term, programmatic maintenance of the water courses in the upper watershed.

2. 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.