

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (08/19/15) (Nisbet/Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, Whitney Dotson, Diane Burgis

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Dave Riensche, Hal MacLean, Bev Ortiz, Anne Kassebaum

Guests: Marty Morrow, Bill Croggins, Dionisio Rosario, Steve Wiley, Judi Banks

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at District Headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. Brief Overview of District Comments Regarding the SFPUC's Little Yosemite Fish Passage Project (Graul)

Chief of Stewardship, Matt Graul provided a brief overview of the District's comments regarding the SFPUC's proposed Little Yosemite Fish Passage Project per a request from Board member Ayn Wieskamp. The District's concern is that since frogs have survived with the natural rock barrier in place, once it is modified there is a chance it may affect species such as the foothill yellow legged and red legged frogs. The District's biological survey data shows that these sensitive species are present and that steelhead trout are not present at the barrier site or in the stream reaches in the vicinity of the barrier. If the barrier is modified to create fish passage, there could be an increase in predation by the non-native bull frogs downstream of the existing red and yellow legged frog population. A telemetry study in 2007 on red legged frogs demonstrated that the relocation proposed by the SFPUC could potentially impact their habitat. The Sierra Club and Alameda Creek Alliance also have concerns with the project as proposed. The public hearing for the project has been delayed. Other problems related to this project would be the impact of increased recreational use.

2. Cultural Services Coordinator Update (Ortiz)

Cultural Services Coordinator, Beverly Ortiz provided a brief informational update of projects undertaken since the previous committee meeting. Chairperson Beverly Lane asked when the Native Peoples Map will be available. Ms. Ortiz said Ira Bletz will determine when it will move forward. Ms. Ortiz provided Directors Burgis, Dotson, and Lane with copies of the Second Edition of the *Ohlone Curriculum with Bay Miwok Content and Introduction to Delta Yokuts*.

3. Blue-Green Algae Update in District Lakes (MacLean)

Water Management Supervisor, Hal MacLean, updated the Committee on the status of cyanobacteria/blue-green algae blooms in the District's lakes. Over the past year, the District has had a number of cyanobacteria blooms that contain a toxic component. The presence of this toxin has closed Lake Temescal and Quarry Lakes to swimming. It is currently unknown why cyanobacteria produce toxins. There are several potential strategies to combat cyanobacteria blooms, though all treatments will require a significant investment of District financial resources and none are guaranteed to work. The Water Management and IPM Departments are working together to develop an effective strategy for managing and treating these blooms in the District's lakes. Hal discussed the challenges for developing control methods and gave updates on the ongoing efforts to develop treatments to combat this formidable foe.

4. California Least Tern Reproductive Success and California Gull Predator Management (Rienschke)

Wildlife Resource Analyst, David Rienschke, reported that gull predation is known to be an important source of egg and chick mortality for many waterbirds and can impact recovery efforts for special status species. From 2005 to 2014, the nesting success of a newly established California least tern (*Sternula antillarum brownii*) colony at Hayward Regional Shoreline in San Francisco Bay and the effects of implementing a California Gull (*Larus californicus*) predator control program was studied. No gull management was undertaken prior to 2007. The effectiveness of gull management and removal by monitoring tern hatching and fledgling success annually was evaluated. California Gulls were the most abundant aerial predators (96%). Recorded were 4,788 predatory gull-tern interactions and the presumptive take of 47 tern eggs and 21 chicks. Although there was no significant change in gull predatory behavior statistically, gull management efforts resulted in significantly improved tern breeding success (numbers of nests, eggs, chicks, and fledglings). From 2007 to 2014, this colony produced a total of 543 successful nests and 653 fledglings, an average nesting density of 196 nests per hectare, and an average of 1.05 fledglings per breeding pair. The District's California Least Tern Colony is the second-largest colony north of Ventura County. Based on a California Department of Fish & Wildlife Annual Report, the District's colony ranks in the top six sites in the state, each annually producing 90 or more fledglings, and contributing to nearly 70% of California's annual Least Tern production!

5. Public Comments

Assistant General Manager, Bob Nisbet requested that the minutes from the last meeting be amended to reflect Public Member Kelly Abreu stating that the time capsule buried at Mission Peak be protected as “cultural,” not “cultural and historical” and that the statement was directed to the Acquisition, Stewardship & Development Division.

Steve Wiley, from Hayward, expressed his concern about Hayward Regional Shoreline and levees being eaten away by erosion. He asked if Measure CC could be used for maintenance of the area? Stewardship Chief, Matt Graul said that Hayward Marsh is being addressed and is another area in the future with Measure WW instead of CC funds. At some point the District will need additional money for the least tern colony maintenance and enhancement, and other restoration projects at Hayward Regional Shoreline.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.