

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (11/18/15) (Nisbet/Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, Diane Burgis, Whitney Dotson

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Joe Sullivan, Kristen Van Damm, Steve Bobzien, Courtney Glettner, Anne Kassebaum, Pam Beitz, Dan Sykes, Kelly Barrington, Bev Ortiz

Guests: Bryce McPherson, David Wood, Steve Wiley, Rick Richard, Peter Rauch

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, November 18, at East Bay Regional Park (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. Status of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in East Bay Parks (McPherson)

Stewardship Chief Matt Graul introduced University of California (UC) Researcher Bryce McPherson, who provided an overview of the UC Berkeley SOD study, with a focus on the status of the disease in coast live oaks since 2009, including infection rates, tree mortality, and implications for the future. Mr. McPherson included an emphasis on the risks of catastrophic tree failure, with focus on infected large coast live oaks that may pose elevated hazards to park users. Natural resistance to the pathogen may hold the key to long-term maintenance of these forests. The work toward understanding resistance is an encouraging focus of this work.

The established network of 535 permanent georeferenced plots will allow monitoring of SOD effects into the future. Director Burgess asked if it is advisable to replenish dead trees with the presence of SOD. Mr. McPherson replied that coast live oaks don't regenerate in the presence of mature live oaks, unless there is a clearing. Disease resistant offspring is possible in the future. Director Burgess inquired about diseased trees in public areas. Mr. Graul replied that inspections are done for the hazardous tree program, but training could be improved.

2. Factors Influencing Stream (Lotic) Breeding Amphibians in Alameda Creek in Sunol Regional Wilderness (Bobzien)

For decades District Stewardship staff, university scientists, and other agency biologists have conducted research projects throughout Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness. Alameda Creek, the largest watershed in the East Bay, encompasses all of this wilderness area and supports five stream breeding amphibians: California newt (*Taricha torosa*), Western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*). From 1996 to present, Stewardship has conducted focused censuses to evaluate aquatic habitat suitability using abiotic and biotic variables within three distinct stream reaches. The reproductive success and population density among a reach with natural flow variation, a reach experiencing flow diversion, and a reach with artificial flow conditions regulated by Calaveras Dam was compared. Ecological Services Coordinator, Steven Bobzien discussed the time series data illustrating the adverse effects of artificial flows, resulting in negative population trajectories and high mortality of these stream breeding amphibians. These results suggest that although 85% of the District area is protected as natural parkland, the resident amphibians may remain vulnerable to anthropogenic (human related) stressors such as stream flow regulation and climate change.

3. Wildcat Creek Riparian Restoration (Sullivan)

The District Fisheries Department conducted a study in 2014 that identified several highly disturbed locations along Wildcat Gorge Trail in Tilden park that were caused by human and dog traffic. In partnership with the Richmond NGO Urban Tilth (UT), District Fisheries staff will design and construct a series of Large Woody Debris (LWD) and Vegetated Woody Debris (VWD) structures to discourage entry into selected restoration sites. UT will provide project labor through its Riparian Technician Apprenticeship program. Restoring these highly disturbed areas will decrease the amount of sediment going into Wildcat Creek and protect sensitive trout and amphibian habitat.

Chair Beverly Lane asked what is needed for this project. Mr. Graul replied that more funding has been requested from the Regional Parks Foundation to help fund this and other projects.

4. Cultural Services Coordinator Update (Ortiz)

Cultural Services Coordinator Beverly Ortiz provided an update with an emphasis on staff training for the monitoring of cultural (Native) and historic sites. On October 20, 2015, she and GIS Technician, Kara Boettcher inaugurated a cultural and historic resources training focused on applicable state and federal laws, District policies and procedures, in-field site monitoring, and recordation of field finds and heritage trees. Emphasis was placed on feedback from participants, with the goal for 2016 to expand classroom and field trainings.

Chair Lane asked about the cultural resource map. Ms. Ortiz said the goal is to head in the direction of finalizing content in Spring 2016.

5. Future Agenda Items _____ (Nisbet)

Mr. Matt Graul reported that Lek Nomovich would give an update on the Serpentine Prairie. Chair Lane requested she get a call to see the flowers there. Mr. Graul said an option would be to have the meeting at Trudeau or a special field trip. Chair Lane requested more time for the Cultural Services Coordinator presentation and that the meetings be held every other month. Acquisition, Stewardship & Development, Assistant General Manager Bob Nisbet said placing the presentation first on the agenda would prevent time running out for that item.

6. Public Comment _____ (Lane)

There was no public comment.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.