

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

c. Natural and Cultural Resources Committee (08/17/16) (Nisbet/Lane)

Committee Members: Beverly Lane, John Sutter, Whitney Dotson, Diane Burgis (Alt)

EBRPD Staff: Bob Nisbet, Matt Graul, Anne Kassebaum, Jim O'Connor, Bev Ortiz, Courtney Wilson, Michele Hammond, Denise Defreese, Raphael Breines, Casey Brierley, Caitlin Stone, Heather Payne, Matt Graul

Guests: Heath Bartosh, Ashley Poust, Marty Morrow, Judi Bank, David Bigham, Steve Wiley, Richard Kaufmann

A meeting of the Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at East Bay Regional Park District Headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA. Chairperson Beverly Lane called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The following is a summary of the items discussed:

I. Paleontological Site Database by University of California Museum of Paleontology(Ortiz)

Cultural Services Coordinator, Beverly Ortiz University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) graduate student Ashley Poust summarized the data he is compiling about paleontological resources in EBRPD parklands under the supervision of EBRPD Cultural Services Coordinator Beverly Ortiz. This project, conducted in partnership with UCMP, allows the leveraging of data held by UCMP from over 125 years of paleontological specimen collection in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Using Berkeley mapper (a Google powered service) and GIS, fossil localities located in EBRPD parklands are being determined. From this data, a confidential database is being created for EBRPD documenting 216 fossil localities in 22 of the Regional Parks. These localities have yielded an estimated 2600 specimens, 85 of which are published or designated as *Type* specimens (those specimens most important to science because genus or species names are tied to them).

The data generated through this project will assist the District in protecting “important...paleontological features from vandalism and misuse,” per the EBRPD Master Plan.

Director Dotson commented on the amount of fossils he has found at Point Pinole but he was not sure of what they are specifically. He offered to bring it in for Mr. Poust to look at. Mr. Poust stated that he would be very interested and he’s not positive that UCMP currently has anything in their collection from Point Pinole.

Director Sutter asked what the purpose of the study is and how the results will be used. Mr. Poust said this will help assess where fossils are being found and how to preserve/protect them in the future.

2. Drought Stress on Trees and Climate Change within East Bay Regional Park District (Bartosh)

Senior Botanist, Heath Bartosh, Nomad Ecology reported on the research that California experienced a millennial-scale drought during 2012-2015. During this time, an extreme loss of canopy water content affected important plant functions such as light interception and growth, and in some cases resulted in mortality. The results of recent statewide studies on this phenomenon were discussed and provided a local context. A brief discussion of the impacts to local terrestrial vegetation resulting from climate change highlighting climate change losers and winners was also presented.

3. Rare Plant Surveys at Black Diamond Mines (Hammond)

Botanist, Michele Hammond reported on the rare plants that are an important part of the District’s mission to preserve and enhance biodiversity within our parkland. Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is a hot spot for rare plants and spring wildflower displays because of its unique geology and climate regime. The update of the Land Use Plan for Black Diamond Mines includes a focused rare plant survey throughout the new and old properties within the preserve.

4. Mt. Diablo Buckwheat: History and New Discoveries (Bartosh)

Senior Botanist, Heath Bartosh, Nomad Ecology reported on one of the most charismatic native plant species endemic to the East Bay, Mount Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*). This plant has been seldom seen by botanists since its discovery in the 1860s and was actually considered extinct during much of the 20th century. The discovery, distribution, resurrection and recent observation of a new population at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in 2016 was discussed.

5. Future agenda items (Nisbet)

Chief of Stewardship, Matt Graul suggested that future agenda items include; an update on Blue-Green algae in the District's lakes and an overview of the ongoing Alameda whipsnake study being conducted in fuel management areas.

6. Public Comment (Lane)

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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