

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

May 10, 2010

Minutes

To: LARPD/EBRPD Intergovernmental Liaison Committee

From: Dave Collins, Assistant General Manager, EBRPD
Tim Barry, General Manager, LARPD

Subject: Minutes for Monday, March 1, 2010 meeting

Attendees:

EBRPD Board Members – Ayn Wieskamp, Carol Severin

LARPD Board Members – David Furst, Scott Kamena

EBRPD Staff: Dave Collins, AGM; John Escobar, AGM; Jim Townsend, Manager -Trails Development; Anne Rivoire, Planner

LARPD Staff: Tim Barry, General Manager; John Lawrence, AGM; Mike Nicholson, Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor; Jim Brandenburg, Senior Park Supervisor.

Public: Dolores Bengston, Nancy Storch, David Lunn

1. Bobba Property/Trail Update:

Staff updated the Committee on the status of the Bobba acquisition/trail alignment and construction for this segment of the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle trail. The Tri Valley Conservancy has acquired the property and is requiring that a resource management plan be undertaken by LARPD prior to the transfer of property. LARPD has a Request For Proposal (RFP) in process to produce this plan. Both EBRPD and LARPD are contributing funding to the purchase. EBRPD is seeking a trail easement to be surveyed and recorded that would provide for trail connection through this property. There continue to be discussions between both agencies regarding the preferred alignment for the trail and at this point, the easement be will surveyed to be a broad enough reservation to accommodate both alternatives. Staff will continue discussing the matter as the resource management plan is developed and will seek to agree on an alternative that serves the interests of both agencies. Funding has not yet been identified to construct a bridge, should that be required; however, regional trail construction should be able to proceed in advance of the bridge project. The survey is anticipated to be completed by the end of March.

2. Holdner Park CEQA:

LARPD staff updated the Committee on this project: the CEQA compliance for the Holdner Park trail system has been completed. This project was funded through monies granted by EBRPD. Staff has been in contact with a volunteer group, the Trail Dogs, who

will be assisting in the construction of a single track trail some time this year. The first trails are anticipated to be constructed in the summer of 2010.

3. Trail Connections Update:

The primary trail discussed is the trail known as Segment N, or T10, which is also a designated part of the East Bay Regional Park District's Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Trail. The focus of this discussion was the trail right-of-way acquisition and construction in the area of Vallecitos Road. Both agencies have been attempting to identify and construct a safe trail crossing and trail links in this area. The City of Livermore is installing a new signal in the area of Vineyard and Vallecitos that will provide for signalized trail crossing of this busy roadway. On the north side of Vallecitos there is a right-of-way identified, and negotiations are being conducted with a property owner to secure this right-of-way, along with the realignment of Vineyard, near the intersection of Vallecitos. South of Vallecitos, there will be a new alignment to connect to the existing trail system at Sycamore Grove, though the exact alignment for this has not yet been identified. There was considerable discussion by the committee and staff regarding the trail routes as they extend north along both sides of Vineyard Avenue and how they will connect into the existing trail system at Shadow Cliffs.

4. Collier Canyon:

LARPD requested an update on District activities in the Collier Canyon area north of Highway 580. As of today, there continues to be interest by a number of parties in establishing a greenbelt between Livermore and Pleasanton. There are some areas where there are conservation easements already recorded on properties and other discussions are being undertaken with property owners in that area. There is no acquisition activity that can be reported as of this date; however, EBRPD will keep LARPD informed of any formal developments for trail or parkland opportunities as they occur in this area.

5. Brushy Peak Cultural District Update:

EBRPD staff updated the Committee on the current status of Brushy Peak. The trail installation and subsequent remediation to prevent potential damage to cultural sites has been completed. EBRPD is proceeding with the establishment of a Cultural Resources District that identifies an area in which cultural resources are a significant asset that need to be protected. This is being undertaken in consultation with professional archeologists supported by conversations with the native community. It will be undertaken to the same standard as is required to qualify for the national register; however, the District will not seek to register this site at this time. The Committee discussed the potential interest of LARPD in doing some improvements to existing trails on the north side of the peak on LARPD property. They are seeking to upgrade the existing trail to avoid potential cultural sites and to address some erosion that has taken place on steeper trail segments. The permit under which EBRPD's Brushy Peak trail was constructed has now expired; however, it was noted that the work that LARPD is intending to do to the existing trail is for minor improvements to an existing trail and should not require a similar permit if it does not adversely impact any native species or areas of cultural concern.

6. South Bay Aqueduct Repair and Del Valle Water Level Impact:

EBRPD staff noted that there is a 60-inch pipe failure on Wente property that is part of the State water project which provides the means for water transport to and from Del Valle Reservoir. The State is repairing this break and expects to have it done by mid-year. The repairs are said to cost in the range of \$6 million. During this repair period, there can be no water pumped into and/or out of Del Valle into the water system to adjust the level for recreational needs. However, the lake has been filling rapidly due to the recent rains. The level was recently within 2 feet of the level that would require removing recreational facilities to avoid damage at flood stage. However, as of this date, the level seems to have moderated and releases from the reservoir into Arroyo Del Valle are keeping it at a safe level. There should be adequate water in the reservoir to serve the recreational needs for the 2010 summer season.

7. Calaveras Dam Replacement:

EBRPD staff noted that the SF Water Department is in the process of putting forward their final plans for replacement of the Calaveras Dam and described the potential impacts on Sunol park. At this point, it's unclear whether EBRPD will need to close Sunol for part or all of this process and/or how it will affect public uses and staff assignments.

8. Shadow Cliffs LUP:

District Planner Anne Rivoire brought a draft plan of the LUP amendment for Shadow Cliffs and described to the committee the District's intentions for the site at this point. The current plan envisions resculpting and insulation of public use facilities in some of the quarry pits to the west of the main recreation area, relocation of the shop and service yard, and some location of additional amenities for public use in the beach and lake area. Other possible additions include shade structures for larger picnic areas, possibly a splash activity pad for younger families, and a means to address and ensure water level in the park for recreational use.

Public Comments:

Dolores Bengston, former Park and Recreation director for the City of Pleasanton, spoke regarding the Shadow Cliffs LUP in support of more intensive interpretive facilities, specifically she requested consideration of a new interpretive center in the plan, the addition of a young families' activity area, and an enclosed pavilion to allow for year round use.

Nancy Storch spoke in favor of the same considerations that Ms. Bengston offered.

David Lunn also spoke regarding Shadow Cliffs, suggesting that the pit area not be converted into a marsh and that it be left as an exhibit of a quarry pit. He also suggested that EBRPD should seek an agreement with the Zone 7 water agency to utilize the Shadow Cliffs basin as a recharge basin for the water table, which would benefit both the park and other local users that rely on the water table in that area.

The Committee adjourned and will seek a meeting date in the next quarter.