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**EBRPD/EBMUD
LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 18, 2018
9:00 a.m.
375 11th Street, Second Floor,
Oakland, CA**

AGENDA

- Redwood Canyon Golf Course Flooding Precautions (EBRPD/EBMUD)
- Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management Update (EBRPD/EBMUD)
- Legislation Actions: Taxing of Water Meters (EBMUD)
- EBRPD Acquisition in Watershed: Gruenfeldt Property (EBRPD)
- EBMUD Herbicide Policy (EBMUD)
- Confirm Next Meeting
- Public Comment

Committee Members:

EBRPD: Dennis Waespi, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Ellen Corbett (Alternate)
EBMUD: Doug Linney, Andy Katz, Frank Mellon (Alternate)

Staff Liaisons:

EBRPD: Assistant General Manager Public Affairs Carol Johnson, Assistant General Manager Bob Nisbet, Business Services Manager Mimi Waluch, Chief of Park Operations Steve Castile

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website (www.ebparks.org), the EBRPD Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

Board of Directors

Dennis Waespi President Ward 3	Ayn Wieskamp Vice-President Ward 5	Ellen Corbett Treasurer Ward 4	Dee Rosario Secretary Ward 2	Whitney Dotson Ward 1	Beverly Lane Ward 6	Colin Coffey Ward 7	Robert E. Doyle General Manager
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REDWOOD CANYON PUBLIC GOLF COURSE FLOODING PRECAUTIONS
EBRPD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

The Redwood Canyon Public Golf Course concession at Lake Chabot Regional Park experienced significant flooding during the winter storms in January and February 2017. Initial preliminary work of debris removal of downed trees and silt; resetting bridges; repairs to bunkers, ramps, irrigation, cart paths, seeding and top dressing; emergency levee and road repairs; and wastewater pumping station repairs had occurred.

A recovery plan to complete the restoration of the facility is being implemented and modified through the combined collaborative efforts of staff from EBMUD, EBRPD, and the course operator Touchstone Golf LLC. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and EBRPD insurance inspectors continue to work with staff to evaluate the current site conditions and process the scope of work to conduct permanent repairs which include the damaged pedestrian overcrossings and golf course drainage system.

The stream was filled with live vegetation (cattails, long grasses), fallen trees, soil from local slope failures into the creek, and soil transported from upstream. The EBMUD Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) provided by the permitting agencies limits the removal of vegetation from the stream channel. It permits mowing in the channel, but only during dry periods. Since 2012, EBRPD annually contracted for the removal and clearing of vegetative debris in the creek. In 2018, branches were removed from the channel and the front 9 streambanks were mowed utilizing specialized equipment. Silt was removed from the drainage pipe on the 9th fairway feeding from Redwood Road. Some of the soil removed from the drainage area on Hole #12 was used to create a berm (3 feet high and 15 feet wide) between the fairway and the channel along portions of Holes #13 and #14 to reduce the potential for flooding. The drainage area at the bottom of the hill to the west of #12 fairway was also cleared of sedimentation. Additional silt, bank erosion, and the loss of some of the pedestrian crossings remain.

The RMA also limits the amount of soil that can be removed to 25 cubic yards annually. It has been recommended to obtain the proper environmental permits which would allow the removal of excess sedimentation accumulated in the creek between the golf course and Lake Chabot from previous storm systems. This project would allow water to flow unrestricted and the increased creek capacity would minimize the frequency of golf course flooding.

NEXT STEPS

EBRPD, EBMUD, and Touchstone are evaluating the potential use of stockpiled EBMUD soil (usable) to be transported to RCGC. The additional soil would be used to elevate areas of the golf course creating a feathered berm from the back of the 12th hole leading to Honker Bay. Also, expanding the berm between the channel and fairways would reduce the potential to flood during high water flow events. Utilizing excavated silt from the channel to elevate portions of fairways and/or extend the berm is being explored. The topography map of the golf course and creek area downstream to Lake Chabot will serve as a base map for project planning and design.

REDWOOD CANYON GOLF COURSE STORM REPAIRS
EBMUD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

The Redwood Canyon Public Golf Course concession is situated within the flood plain for San Leandro Creek. The golf course has historically flooded when releases from San Leandro Reservoir and runoff from Miller Creek exceed the limited capacity of the creek channel. The most recent flooding occurred during the winter storms in January and February 2017. The golf course completed repairs to the course to return it to operation, in part with funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. However, the potential for flooding remains and is somewhat exacerbated as a result of debris that settled in the channel in 2017 and reduced its capacity. EBMUD staff communicated to EBRPD and the course operator Touchstone Golf LLC (Touchstone) on November 27, 2017, that the field-verified capacity was 70 cubic feet per second (as of fall 2017) and that this capacity was inadequate.

Staff from EBMUD, EBRPD, and Touchstone have met over the past year to determine how best to accomplish both small and large scale projects to maintain and/or increase channel capacity. EBMUD's Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife allows for regular maintenance activities in the creek channel but limits the amount of sediment removal work that can be done each season. It is anticipated that a larger sediment removal project completed under a project specific agreement or under a golf course specific RMA is necessary to significantly increase channel capacity and decrease the frequency of flooding the golf course.

NEXT STEPS

EBMUD and EBRPD staff plan to start the channel clearing project aimed at woody debris and brush removal in October. The agencies will continue to work with Touchstone to evaluate other projects to reduce flooding.

ARC:RGS:rgs

FIRE PREVENTION AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE
EBRPD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

The Park District is continuing sustainable forest management practices consistent with its Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan to lessen the potential for wildland urban interface wildfire.

Park District staff representing Fire, Stewardship, Operations along with utility and external contractors are responsible for all work to thin trees and remove hazardous vegetation throughout 3,000 acres of the Park District's East Bay hills forested regions. Current funding allows for approximately 1,000 acres to be actively thinned.

Ongoing methods to manage fuels in our parklands include hand labor, grazing (cattle, goats), mechanical equipment and controlled fire burns. In addition, utility providers like PG&E work with EBRPD staff for access to their power lines to remove hazardous vegetation and encroaching trees per standards set by the California PUC. Careful review of environmental requirements related to endangered species protections are managed cooperatively between Stewardship, Operations, Fire with all external contractors who work in our parklands.

In Summer 2018, due to unprecedented extreme fire danger, EBRPD implemented CalFire's requirement which restricted the use of all campfires, wood burning or charcoal barbecues in all regional parks. This restriction remains in effect. Additionally, several red flag fire warning days have restricted park staff use of gas powered equipment.

Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management Update:

- Piles of brush and cut limbs were built on several sites in Tilden and Claremont Canyon fuels treatment areas as part of the Civicorps contract to perform fuels management activities in support of the Alameda Whipsnake research project. This project is funded by the FEMA fuels management grant.
- Contractors continued the FEMA funded fuel reduction project in Tilden Park near homes adjacent to Summit Road.
- Contractors removed fuels from approximately 121 acres in Anthony Chabot. This project is funded by the FEMA fuels management grant. Work was completed in (AC012 and AC014) consisting of 121 acres in total. The project included sensitive habitat for Alameda Whipsnake and biological monitors were present for the protection and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. Work included:
 - Eucalyptus tree removal up to 12 inches in diameter for residual spacing of 15-20 feet.
 - Reducing grassland stubble to 6-8' and removing up to 50% bushlands in a mosaic pattern to reduce flame lengths while preserving habitat for whipsnakes.
 - Removing oaks and bays under 6 inches to increase spacing and health of forested areas retaining 15-20 per acre. All retained oaks and bays were pruned up from forest floor to reduce the fuel ladder.

NEXT STEPS

Future plans for fire prevention and vegetation management in regional parks includes the development of a redwood forest management plan and focus on stewardship of natural vegetation to improve forest health.

Fire Department is looking to increase their staff, with the approval of the 2019 budget, to include two fuels reduction coordinator positions and an additional firefighter position.

**UPDATE ON FUEL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE WILDLAND
URBAN INTERFACE
EBMUD
October 18, 2018**

CURRENT STATUS

During the recent update of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP), EBMUD received substantial public comments related to fuel management and forestry practices in the wildland urban interface areas, particularly along the Grizzly Peak Blvd. fuel break area in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills.

For over 20 years EBMUD staff has managed fuel loads on District property in the interface areas along Grizzly Peak Blvd. This work has been conducted consistent with the 1995 EBWMP and its approved Environmental Impact Report. The primary goal of this work has been to clear a 150-foot wide fuel break on the crest of the hills through EBMUD property and thin fuels on either side of the fuel break to reduce fire intensity under normal fire conditions. Most of the work has involved tree and brush removal, control of stump sprouting, and routine underbrush clearing and pruning.

Over the years, EBMUD has regularly received comments from various interest groups on fuel management practices in the interface areas. The Claremont Canyon Conservancy (CCC) and the Hills Conservation Network have been actively providing input. This input intensified during the EBWMP update with some commenters requesting that every eucalyptus be removed, and others asking that all trees be preserved. Ultimately, EBMUD determined that its current approach should be maintained; this provides acceptable public safety protection while preserving the aesthetics of the highly visible ridgeline. Over the past year, EBMUD has held meetings and site visits with representatives of CCC and other organizations, CalFire and other fire districts to explain and confirm our approach.

NEXT STEPS

EBMUD will continue its ongoing fuel management efforts in the Grizzly Peak Blvd. area and is currently soliciting bids for a multi-year contract for thinning and stump control. The contract will be presented to the EBMUD Board for consideration by December 2018.

ARC:RGS:rgs

STATE WATER TAX LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS
EBMUD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

Over the past several years, there have been many proposals by the state legislature to impose a water tax or fee on water customers to fund water-related state priorities. No proposals advanced during the recently ended legislative session; however, the conversation is expected to continue next year. Three proposals from this past year are briefly summarized below:

- SB 623 - intended for communities without access to safe drinking water by creating the Safe Affordable Drinking Water Fund (Fund) to provide assistance via grants, loans, services and contracts to eligible applicants. The funding source for the Fund was a surcharge to be imposed on retail water bills based on meter size, and taxes imposed on specified segments of the agriculture industry.
- Administration draft budget trailer bill language – similar to SB 623, never formally amended into a legislative vehicle.
- SB 844 & SB 845 – would have established the Fund and provided a funding source via taxes imposed on specified segments of the agriculture industry (SB 844), and collected money using an “opt out” approach for a voluntary donation that would have appeared as a line item on the retail water bills for collection and forwarding to the state by retail water agencies (SB 845).

NEXT STEPS

EBMUD will continue to monitor legislation and provide comments as appropriate.

ARC:RGS:dec

EBRPD ACQUISITION IN WATERSHED: GRUENFELDT PROPERTY
EBRPD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

The East Bay Regional Park District recently acquired a small residence located on Redwood Road within Redwood Canyon and the Upper San Leandro Creek watershed, which supplies the East Bay Municipal Utility District's San Leandro Reservoir. This opportunity arose when the long-time owners of the property- the Gruenfeldts - placed the property on the market in order to purchase a new home outside of the area. As with the other early-20th century residences that once dotted Redwood Canyon, the Gruenfeldt residence does not have access to sanitary sewer services, and consequently relies upon a septic system. These outdated septic systems pose a threat to the long-term health of Redwood Creek, and over the years most of the privately-owned parcels within Redwood Canyon have been acquired by the Park District or by EBMUD to protect water quality within the Upper San Leandro Creek watershed and provide creek restoration opportunities.

Today the Gruenfeldt property is one of only two residences remaining in Redwood Canyon. In 2015 the Park District acquired and subsequently demolished the Aweeka residence within the canyon, restoring the site and a segment of Redwood Creek to a natural condition. The Gruenfeldt property is currently being evaluated as a candidate for a similar restoration effort.

UPDATE ON EAST BAY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN
EBMUD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

EBMUD staff initiated an update of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan (Master Plan) in 2015. The process engaged many stakeholders in multiple public meetings, issue-specific meetings, site visits, and tours. The three-year process culminated in approval of the updated Master Plan and its associated Negative Declaration in May 2018. The final Master Plan was well received by the public and there were no challenges to the Negative Declaration.

The primary changes to the Master Plan were to alter the long-standing ban on bicycles on EBMUD trails and provide access for bicyclists on two sections of trail totaling 7.5 miles in the Pinole Valley and above San Pablo Dam Road. These trail sections consist of existing service roads that already accommodate vehicular traffic for watershed operations. Given the intent to limit new public access to these trails, EBMUD concluded that there were no significant impacts expected from this change in recreational use. These trails opened to bicycle use in July 2018.

In addition, some stakeholders expressed concern about EBMUD's use of pesticides on the watershed and on fuel reduction practices in the wildland-urban interface areas. The Master Plan addressed these concerns by clarifying language around pesticide use and by adopting an approach that eliminated herbicide application for the control of stump sprouting eucalyptus grove treatment areas. The forestry element of the Master Plan update otherwise remained unchanged.

NEXT STEPS

EBMUD initiated a Trails Advisory Group to guide the smooth accommodation of bicycle use in the Pinole Valley and ensure safety and enjoyment for the public. An initial meeting was held in July and a second meeting took place on October 9.

ARC:RGS:rgs

EBMUD INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
EBMUD
October 18, 2018

CURRENT STATUS

Over the past 18+ months, EBMUD staff has been reviewing its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. Public feedback on the program was provided during the recent update of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP) and as part of the IPM Program review and update process.

During the EBWMP update, members of the public expressed significant concerns regarding EBMUD's use of pesticides on the watershed. This was based in part on certain research findings on the herbicide glyphosate, which indicated the potential for causing cancer in humans. Concern was also expressed over the use of Garlon to control stump sprouting following removal of eucalyptus trees. As a result, the EBWMP specified that EBMUD would not apply herbicides to control stump sprouting. EBMUD staff also committed to minimizing use of glyphosate in the watershed. Typically, less than five gallons per year is applied in the 29,000-acre East Bay Watershed, and in 2018, no glyphosate has been used to date in the East Bay Watershed.

The IPM Program applies to all EBMUD properties including the watershed, rights-of-way, and nearly 400 other locations related to the water and wastewater systems, and administration facilities. EBMUD's current IPM guidelines were last updated in 2010, and a review of the IPM program is underway. In 2017, EBMUD retained an independent consultant to audit its current IPM Program and provide recommendations for enhancements. Some of those recommendations have already been implemented including:

- Formed an internal IPM workgroup, comprised of representatives from all divisions implementing IPM. The workgroup meets monthly to work on the program framework and tool development with a focus on consistency across the organization;
- Developed new data collection tools that combine IPM decision making and state pesticide reporting requirements;
- Created an IPM brochure for staff to share with the public;
- Developed and conducted a comprehensive 3-day training for all staff practicing IPM; and
- Issued a Request for Proposals for long-term consultant support to establish the foundation of the program which includes: pesticide application reviews by a state licensed Pest Control Advisor; input on decision documents; standardizing program guidelines and procedures; and development of outreach strategies and communication tools.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the IPM Program review include:

- Execute a long-term consultant support contract in November 2018;
- Continue comprehensive IPM training opportunities;
- Conduct data analyses from the new IPM data collection tools to understand trends;
- Update the EBMUD Board, the public and key stakeholders; and
- Complete the IPM guideline update and develop an IPM public webpage for easier data access.

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I:\SEC\2018 Board Related Items\101818 EBMUD-EBRPD Liaison Committee\WNR - Update On Integrated Pest Management Program