

Meeting Minutes of the Wetlands Advisory Board September 21, 2017

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Wetlands Advisory Board was held on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room, Balboa Park.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Chris Nordby, Wetlands Scientist Theresa Talley, General Member Michael Beck, Environmental Org. Daniel Smith, Land Owner

Members Absent

Jayne Janda-Timba, Chair, General Member Jeff Crooks, Coastal Salt Marsh Rep.

City of San Diego Staff

Jeannette De Angelis, Program Manager, DSD

Guests

Tim Norall

Paul Metcalf

Greg Mason

Tershia d'Elgin

Eric Bowlby

Tory Walker

CALL TO ORDER

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (TALLEY/SMITH) that Chris Nordby be appointed Acting Chair in the absence of Jayne Janda-Timba. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair, Chris Nordby at 3:10 p.m. after a quorum was reached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on May 18, 2017 were unanimously approved.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

ACTION ITEMS

1. Merge 56 Wetland Deviation – Presentation by Project Applicant, Paul Metcalf and Greg Mason, Biologist.

The project involves a private mixed-use development south of SR-56 and a public roadway (Camino Del Sur North and South) with trail connections. Two City of San Diego regulated vernal pools (0.022 acres) will be impacted by the private portion of the project and will require a Biologically Superior Option (BSO) determination and opinion from the WAB on low quality wetlands. The public roadway is considered an essential public project not requiring a BSO determination and was only discussed for context. Mitigation for impacted vernal pools for the entire project will occur on Del Mar Mesa which includes creation pools for the mixed-use impacts. The total watershed for the pools will be 2.28 acres.

Following the presentation, questions from the Board regarding the total mitigation scheme for the project, the mitigation site's available watershed, consistency with the draft Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan, the trail connection to Darkwood Canyon and effects of roadway runoff to adjacent pools were answered.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (BECK/TALLEY) that the Board does not find that the two vernal pools are necessarily low quality, however, the Board accepts the recommendation of the Biologically Superior Option. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Maple Canyon Restoration Project Phase II – *Tershia d'Elgin/Eric Bowlby/Tory Walker* request for WAB letter of support.

This project was first heard by the Board on May 18, 2017. Today, a brief summary of the project was given. The goal of the project is to control urban runoff, slow water flowing through the canyon, build sediment behind a grade control using enviroblocks, improve stream habitat, increase wetlands and water quality ultimately restoring our local canyons. The grade control is designed to be flexible for varying canyon conditions and removable if needed. A grant from the Coastal Conservancy for design has been secured. Additional grants have been secured to pursue regulatory permitting for the project. The project also includes trail planning.

A brief question and answer period followed regarding potential trail use, canyon widths and community outreach.

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (TALLEY/SMITH) that the Board provide a letter of support. Motion carried unanimously. The Board appreciates the applicant's work in support of restoring our local canyons.

INFORMATIONAL/WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. Wetland Advisory Board Procedures – Jayne Janda-Timba

No discussion was held on this item.

2. Board membership

A general discussion was held to discuss new members, term renewals and term expirations.

COMMUNICATIONS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation on the Borer Beetle by Gail Sevrens, CDFW

- Wild Mission Bay Planning Efforts
- Los Peñasquitos TMDL and marsh restoration
- West Mission Bay Bridge
- Pond 20 possible mitigation bank
- Local canyon/wetland restoration projects
- Famosa Slough storm water diversion
- Mission Valley Community Plan update, San Diego River elements

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 2:30 pm to be held at 2144 Pan American Road W., Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room, San Diego, CA 92101.