

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE Members Present

Jessi Brown, City of La Mesa
Shawn Chambers, MTRP User Group
Cynthia Cornelius, Member-at-large
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group
(alternate)
Rick Gulley, City of Parks and Recreation Committee
Rob Hutsel, Co of SD Parks and Recreation Committee
David Lipson, SDSU
Kevin Loomis, Chair
Jennifer Morrissey, MTRP Foundation
Dick Murphy, Vice Chair, Special Member
Scott Penwell, City of El Cajon
Mike Pent, Special Member
Marilyn Reed, Navajo Community Planners
Gary Strawn, City of Santee
Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area Council

Members Absent/Excuse

David Boyer, USMC
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association

City of San Diego

Ed Christensen, Supervising Park Ranger, Open Space Division, Parks and Recreation
Department Rob Wheeler, Senior Park Ranger, MTRP, Parks and Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by CAC Chair Kevin Loomis.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved/seconded (Hutsel/Cornelius) to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

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CHAIR'S REPORT – *Kevin Loomis*

- Water purification report and parking
- Subcommittee

STAFF/RANGER'S REPORT – *Rob Wheeler*

- Dustin Furlong new ranger at Mission Trails just started and now we are fully staffed with seven Rangers.
- Park Rangers visited Benchley Weinberger Elementary presenting to 800 students on Kumeyaay History and Ethnobotany.
- Trail Guide Training will be starting in January.
- Ranger led Trail Crews have started back up and have been working on Kwaay Paay and South Fortuna trail.

FOUNDATION REPORT – *Jennifer Morrissey*

- Field trips are going well and continue and eco ambassadors have one more session.
- Invasive and brush removal program continues with RECON Environmental- the removal of invasives along SD river and removal of primrose from Kumeyaay Lake.
- Holiday Marketplace Dec 15th & 16th.

COMMUNICATIONS –

- Jim Hunt, Community Member
 - Request to paint bypass pipeline near Kumeyaay Lake Campground entrance.
 - Beatification of pipe will go through senior staff rangers at MTRP.
- Richard Thesing, Tierrasanta Community Council
 - Bridge for Max federal funding has been cut.

ACTION ITEMS

101. Approval of 2026 CAC schedule to occur on the following dates: January 6, March 3, May 5, July 7, September 1, November 3 – *Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair*

- The motion was moved and seconded (Gulley, Brown) to approve the proposed 2026 MTRP CAC dates.

102. Request to establish SD River Crossing Project as a Capital Improvement Project- *Jennifer Morrissey- MTRP Foundation*

- Family has run out of funding for the project and want to seek out funding through the city.
- The motion was moved and seconded. (Morrissey, Cornelius)

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103. Request additional mitigation for the East County Water Purification Project to restore access to Father Junipero Serra Trail – *Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair*

- The motion was moved and seconded. (Murphy, Hutsel)

WORKSHOP ITEMS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. East County Advanced Water Purification Project Update – *Rebecca Abbott, Engineering Manager, East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Power Authority*

- Three crews: Fusion, East and West.
- Goal is to optimize project schedule and minimize impacts to wildlife.
- East Crew: working near the Dam.
- West Crew: working near Visitor center and Mission Gorge.
- Slip line work should take approximately 6-8 weeks per section. 14 sections. Estimated to be done in 2028.
- 42 wild life crossings have been installed under the pipe and more to come.
- Through access has been affected on FJST. Unsure when it will be accessible for the duration of the project.
- Access issues: most visitors are following signage but some are not. Fences are being knocked over inside the trenches, signs are being moved, and workers are experiencing unpleasant interactions with visitors.
- More outreach will occur with updates on project.
- Comments: Concern for public safety and wildlife. Concern about the open trenches and the fences are not around all sides. Suggestion of hiring a security guard and/or have sheriff patrol around open trenches.
- Crews will install more fences around trenches and make sure they are secured properly.
- March -September is bird nesting season and more construction will be put into place for noise cancelling and mitigating disruption to breeding birds.
- CAC believes the current project has been modified slightly, therefore a motion regarding the concern of public safety and access on FJST to see that the contractor minimizes the issues discussed and that they will be monitored to insure that these concerns be taken care of. This will be an action item for next CAC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 PM.