

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2026

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE Members Present

David Boyer, USMC
Jessi Brown, City of La Mesa
Shawn Chambers, MTRP User Group
Cynthia Cornelius, Member-at-large
Rob Hutsel, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Committee
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

Members Absent/Excuse

Rick Gulley, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Committee
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)
Glenn Farber, San Carlos Area
David Lipson, San Diego State University
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association
Mickey Zeichick, San Carlos Area Council

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/Morrissey) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT – *Kevin Loomis*

- No updates

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STAFF/RANGER'S REPORT – Rob Wheeler

- Restoration of Old Mission Dam Overlook with new fencing, platform leveling, and bench repainting.
- Repairs restoring lake trail access at Kumeyaay Campground following storm-related river rise.
- Beautification work at Cowles Mountain, including invasive species removal, trail maintenance, litter abatement, and graffiti removal.
- Ongoing repairs to Clairmont Mesa bridge decking to reduce tripping hazards.
- Oak Grove Loop Trail Boardwalk Project:
 - Now required to undergo the Public Works purchasing/contracting process.
 - Concern remains that existing grant funds may not fully cover upcoming bids.

FOUNDATION REPORT – Jennifer Morrissey

- Education programs active; new cohort of Eco Ambassadors (30 high school participants) began Sunday
- Grant-funded interpretive panels for Oak Grove Loop Trail expected to arrive this week; installation planned shortly afterward
- Acoustic ceiling panels will be installed in the Visitor Center before the next meeting

COMMUNICATIONS –

- Brian McNeece, MTRP Volunteer
 - Requested better bicyclist access at FJST gate
 - Suggested replacing the infrequently used southern gate with removable bollards to improve pedestrian/bicycle access
- Jim Hunt, Community Member
 - Proposed a collaborative neighborhood artwork project to decorate the exposed ECAWP pipe
- Greg Bartow, Community Member
 - Expressed concerns about park impacts from the Caltrans SR-52 Project
 - Cited concerns about habitat barriers, noise, stormwater pollution, and long-term impact of widening SR-52
 - Requested improved coordination between Caltrans, the City, and MTRP to address wildlife connectivity, litter mitigation, and right of way access for long term trail planning

ACTION ITEMS –

101. Approval of the amended minutes from the November 4, 2025 CAC meeting – *Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair*

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- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Cornelius/Hutsel) to approve the amended minutes from the November 4, 2025 CAC meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining.

102. Approval to move the November 3, 2026 CAC meeting date to November 10, 2026 – *Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair*

- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Pent/Brown) to approve moving the November 3, 2026 CAC meeting date to November 10, 2026. The motion passed unanimously with Boyer abstaining.

103. Consider ad hoc subcommittee's mitigation recommendations for the East County AWP Project – *Kevin Loomis, CAC Chair*

- **MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (Pent/Strawn) to request that the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Power Authority plant and maintain, until established, 25 trees along the west side of Father Junipero Serra Trail between the MTRP Visitor Center and Old Mission Dam following the road resurfacing. Tree species and locations would be recommended by City staff. The request will proceed to the MTRP Task Force for approval. The motion passed with Chambers opposed and Boyer abstaining.

WORKSHOP ITEMS – None

INFORMATION ITEMS

301. SR-52 Operational Improvements Project Overview – *Tyler Hicks, Caltrans*

- Early-stage environmental review; alternatives still evolving.
- Corridor spans from SR-15 to Mast Blvd.
- Future possibilities include lane additions and bridge widening to relieve bottlenecks.
- Community environmental concerns—including litter, runoff, and wildlife crossings were acknowledged for further review.

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

- Construction progress significantly ahead of previous schedule.
- Three crews now active; approximately 25% complete, 35% in progress.
- Temporary closures noted:
 - Left turn pocket from eastbound Mission Gorge to Father Junipero Serra Trail to close for about a month.
 - Bushy Hill Drive vehicle gate closed for about 3 weeks (pedestrian/bike access remains).

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- Old Mission Dam parking lot remains open for pedestrians and cyclists

303. CAC Ad Hoc Stowe Trail Subcommittee update – *David Boyer, USMC MCAS Miramar*

- Cultural and biological assessments in draft form; undergoing review
- NEPA process ongoing; tribal consultation needs re-engagement after prior furlough delays
- Real estate transfer process (230 acres from USMC to County) continues on a parallel track.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 6:30 PM.