

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 7, 2026

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

ATTENDANCE Members Present

David Boyer, USMC
Shawn Chambers, MTRP User Group
Cynthia Cornelius, Member-at-large
Rick Gulley, City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Committee
Ryan Hartegan, MTRP User Group (alternate)
Rob Hutsel, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Committee
David Lipson, San Diego State University
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
Kin Searcy, Scripps Ranch Civic Association

Members Absent/Excuse

Gary Strawn, City of Santee

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/Gulley) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2026, with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT – *Kevin Loomis*

- Jessi Brown and Parker Ross have resigned from the La Mesa representative position

STAFF/RANGER'S REPORT – *Rob Wheeler*

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- Park Rangers and volunteers successfully resurfaced the entire Clairemont Mesa bridge by stripping away the old decking and installing new wood panels with support for materials provided by the MTRP Foundation
- A vendor has been selected to complete the Oak Grove Loop Trail boardwalk, and will onboard soon pending final documentation from the Purchasing & Contracting Department

FOUNDATION REPORT – *Jennifer Morrissey*

- Summer programs have concluded with camps and field trips serving approximately 6,000 children during the past academic year
- The Foundation is recruiting for a Fundraising Associate and an Education Manager
- Two small parcels in the upper northeastern park boundary are in escrow with anticipated closing within the next month

COMMUNICATIONS –

- Greg Bartow, Community Member
 - Raised concerns regarding the \$100M Caltrans SR-52 project impacts to habitat connectivity, noise, litter, stormwater, and fencing alignment. Requested vigilance in advance of Caltrans EIR
 - Requested that the far east entrance to Father Junipero Serra Trail remain closed for traffic-calming benefits
- Jack Zarour, Community Member
 - Requested replacement of a park boundary sign near SR-52 within MTRP
 - Requested installation of a vehicular gate to deter trespassing into park adjacent private property

ACTION ITEMS –

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* Early-stage environmental review; alternatives still evolving.

- Project is significantly ahead of schedule
 - Segment construction is up to 1 year ahead of schedule
- Work remaining:
 - Installation of air release valves
 - Pipeline connections and completion of remaining sliplining pits
 - Installation of odor control carbon canisters
 - Hydrostatic testing of full segment

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- Decision making on when to remove the temporary bypass pipeline – potentially this winter or next year
- CAC input is requested regarding whether to reinstall the asphalt curb separating vehicle and pedestrian areas along Father Junipero Serra Trail
 - An ad hoc subcommittee will be proposed at the next meeting to develop formal recommendations

302. Engineering & Capital Projects Dept to request CAC approval at the September 1 meeting to allocate Antenna Fund resources to the West Sycamore Staging Area project – *Ed Christensen, Supervising Park Ranger, Open Space Division, City of San Diego*

- West Sycamore Staging Area was previously approved as part of the Master Plan update which includes:
 - ADA-compliant restrooms with running water
 - Ranger trailer replacement
 - Shade structures and picnic tables
- The bidding process was redone; prior bids exceeded estimates by approximately \$300,000
- Antenna Fund balance is \$552,000
- CAC members requested original budget figures, final bid amounts once available, exploration of alternative funding sources, and identification of possible project reductions if needed

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

- Cultural and biological assessments received and commented on; awaiting consultant revisions
- NEPA tribal consultation will resume once documents are finalized
- Real estate transfer of Stowe parcel from USMC to County continues; congressional authorization already secured
- Estimated timeline 6-18 months

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 6:30 PM.