



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

*Orange County Transportation Authority
600 South Main Street, Room 154
Orange, California
May 6, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.*

Committee Members Present:

Chair Lori Donchak, OCTA Board of Directors
Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, Measure M Support Groups
Charles Baker, Caltrans
Dr. David Chapel, Brandman University
David Mayer, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Derek McGregor, Public Member
Philip La Puma, Measure M2 Taxpayer Oversight Committee
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Committee Member(s) Absent:

John Walsh, California Wildlife Conservation Board
Lisa Bartlett, OCTA Board of Directors
Veronica Li, US Army Corps of Engineers

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Marissa Espino, Community Relations Officer
Lesley Hill, Project Manager
Janice Kadlec, Public Reporter
Dan Phu, Project Development Section Manager
Monte Ward, Measure M Consultant

Guests/Public Speaker

Bart Mejia, City of Costa Mesa
Robert Staples, City of Costa Mesa
Paul Thier

1. Welcome

Chair Lori Donchak called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of April 1, 2015 minutes

Chair Lori Donchak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 1, 2015 EOC meeting minutes. A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Phillip La Puma, and passed unanimously to approve the April 1, 2015 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

4. Restoration Projects Update

Bart Mejia, Senior Engineer from the City of Costa Mesa provided an overview of the Fairview Park Restoration Project. The Fairview Park Restoration Project was funded through the Measure M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program in 2010.

Lori Donchak asked if the recently shared project was accomplished for \$3.6 million. Mr. Mejia said phase three of the project was \$3.6 million.

Lori Donchak asked what the most expensive part of the project was. Mr. Mejia said the wetlands, ponds, and the water delivery system was the most expensive part of the project.

Derek McGregor asked what the source of the water was for the project. Was it natural? Mr. Mejia said no – it was dry weather run off. The county manages a pump station that keeps the runoff from going into the ocean. This water did go to the Sanitation Department for treatment but now it comes through this project.

Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck asked Mr. Mejia to see an overview of the map of the project, and to point toward areas where impacts have happened. She asked to be shown where the areas were and what were the proposals established by the new committee. Approximately two years ago, the City Council reconvened a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) to see if the current adopted master plan needed to be updated. The CAC divided the plan into quadrants and looked at the quadrants individually for possible new uses and updates to master plans. The CAC did not complete the task but got to within 98% of completion. They did not recommend any changes to the master plan.

In the past few years, there has been a great deal of controversy over the vernal pools at the south end of the park. They are working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife who have jurisdiction of the vernal pools.

5. Aliso Canyon Purchase

Marissa Espino reported OCTA acquired the 151-acre Aliso Canyon Property on April 22, 2015. The preserve was purchased for approximately \$2.2 million and is adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, and Moulton Meadows Park in the City of Laguna Beach.

6. Public Comments

Paul Thier: Paul Thier presented a letter to the EOC. The letter outlined a list of requests of OCTA regarding OCTA's purchase of Ferber Ranch. He stated he is making this request for information under the Freedom of Information Act and the Brown Act:

7. Committee Member Follow-up

Dan Silver requested for a brief explanation on how the 404 Permit process works. He finds the language of the Permit to be complicated and confusing. He is looking for a brief explanation of the Letter of Permission process.

Lesley Hill gave a quick overview of the process.

Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck reported on Monday, May 4, 2015 the Executive Committee met to hear the long term funding strategies, the guiding principles, and the timeline. She was impressed with the depth of knowledge the committee members had. Board Member Spitzer was especially concerned about the mountain lions and their ability to traverse wildlife areas and making sure there is connectivity between open space lands. Board Member Spitzer said he would like OCTA to investigate partnering with other agencies. He felt planning for this needs to start now or it would be too late. He does not want mountain lions to disappear from our ecosystem. Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck said it was a very positive meeting.

Chair Lori Donchak agreed it was a very positive meeting. Originally they were going to take the board item to the Finance Committee after the Executive Committee meeting but the item was so well accepted they decided to take it straight to the Board.

8. Next Meeting – June 3, 2015

The next EOC meeting will be June 3, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.