



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

*Chair Lori Donchak, Chairman
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chairman
Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12
Lisa Bartlett, OCTA Board of Directors
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Association of OC
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife
Anthony Villa, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conserv. Board.*

*Orange County Transportation Authority
600 South Main Street, Room 154
Orange, California
November 4, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.*

Member(s) Absent

Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers

1. Welcome

Chairman Lori Donchak called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Jonathan Snyder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of October 7, 2015 Minutes

Chairman Lori Donchak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 7, 2015 EOC minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the October 7, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

4. Restoration Projects Update

Lesley Hill, OCTA, said at the October 7th EOC meeting the Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC) gave a status update of their project – the Harriett Wieder Restoration Project. The EOC requested that the BCC return to the November 4th EOC meeting to present a milestone schedule for the Project.

Grace Adams, Executive Director of BCC, gave a report on the proposed milestones for the Harriett Wieder project.

Dan Silver asked why there is still a partial private ownership of the project. Ed Mountford, Senior Vice President of the California Coastal Communities, said the Harriett Wieder Regional Park is made up of 50% land that is publically owned and 50% of land that is privately owned. In 2006, an irrevocable offer of dedication was made to the County for the portion of the property that was private ownership. The County indicated it was not in a position to accept the irrevocable offer of dedication so the property remains under the California Coastal Communities ownership.

An EOC member asked when they expect the County to accept the irrevocable offer of dedication. Stacy Blackwood, O.C. Parks Director, said there are still active oil operations and the County is reluctant to take ownership of the property until all active oil and other private industry activities have ceased, and there is sufficient evidence that all environmental mitigation and remediation requirements have been met in order to ensure there are no operations on site which might impact the safety of the public.

When asked about the conservation mechanisms, Stacy said the conservation mechanisms will be mirror images of each other and remain in place in perpetuity.

Chairman Lori Donchak asked if the November 30th timeline for O.C. Parks and the private owners to submit an updated deed restriction is a realistic deadline. Stacy said she believed they have a solid working draft today and do not anticipate any issues.

Chairman Lori Donchak asked when the deadlines were for planting this area. David Pryor, Bolsa Chica Conservancy's Ecologist, said they can start planting as late as July.

Director Lisa Bartlett said eventually they will all fit together, but currently all they have is a proposed milestone schedule. Different components may need to be stretched out as far as the time frame is concerned. It is a work in progress and the EOC will just need to work with them.

Chairman Lori Donchak provided a summary of the discussion:

- General positive support for the project
- Appreciation for the approach going forward
- Staff to return in December with a revised milestones schedule
- No contracts should be executed before the next EOC meeting
- Bolsa Chica Conservancy to return within three months with a progress report

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to:

1. Endorse the Bolsa Chica Conservancy's proposed milestone schedule with the suggestion to revise the schedule range to definite dates with buffers which will be reviewed in the next meeting;

2. Direct staff to begin to execute an Agreement to move forward with the Harriett Wieder Restoration Project and issue a monthly status report until the restoration project begins;
3. Direct staff to reflect the proposed milestone schedule into the agreement in order to assure that the schedule is adhered to and to include an escape clause for OCTA if EOC agrees status of project is not sufficiently proceeding within schedule;
4. Direct Bolsa Chica Conservancy to return to the EOC on a quarterly basis with a progress report.

5. Resource Management Plans Summary

Dan Phu, OCTA, said OCTA will be releasing the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the OCTA Trabuco and Silverado Canyon Preserves on November 11, 2015. The release will include the Ferber Ranch, O'Neill Oaks, Hafen, Saddle Creek South, and MacPherson Preserves.

Lesley Hill gave an overview of the RMP being released. She said the RMP is somewhat of a living and breathing document -- priorities change and management changes. It is something that is revisited on a regular basis about every five years.

Dan Phu gave a brief review of the RMP's financial section.

Monte Ward, Measure M Consultant, reviewed the input from the stakeholders.

Melanie Schlotterbeck, asked if the future land holder is going to be responsible for the updates or OCTA. Dan Phu said this has yet to be determined, but OCTA envisions whoever takes over the title and the management responsibilities is going to get the entire package.

Monte Ward added that the Conservation Plan is basically an agreement between the Wildlife Agencies and OCTA and it is approved by both entities. The RMPs are only approved by the Wildlife Agencies. Once the Conservation Plan agreement is approved, the Wildlife Agencies need to sign-off on the RMPs.

6. Public Comments

Delma Johnson had a correction on her public comments to the RMP. She also urged OCTA to take a look at the merge of the Hickey Trail, the Canyon Connector Trail, and the Rose Canyon Trail. They also connect to the regional trails.

7. Committee Member Reports

Dan Phu said he will be providing a biennial status update to the OCTA Board which occurs around June and December. The December 2015 Staff Report will cover three items: 1) The August 10, 2015 Inter-Agency Puma Regional Coordination Meeting; 2) Release of the Resource Management Plans; and 3) Recap of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Harriett Wieder Restoration Project

8. Next Meeting – December 2, 2015

The next EOC meeting will be December 2 at 2:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.