



## ***Minutes***

### ***Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee***

---

#### **Committee Members**

*Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chairman  
Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12  
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering  
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League  
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife*

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

#### **Member(s) Absent**

*Chair Lori Donchak, Chairman  
Lisa Bartlett, OCTA Board of Directors  
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Assoc. of OC  
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers  
Anthony Villa, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.  
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conserv. Board.*

#### **1. Welcome**

Vice Chairman Melanie Schlotterbeck called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Charles Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3. Approval of November 4, 2015 Minutes**

Due to lack of a quorum Vice Chairman Melanie Schlotterbeck tabled approval of the November 4, 2015 meeting minutes until the next EOC meeting.

#### **4. Harriett Wieder Restoration Projects Update**

Grace Adams, Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC), gave a status update of their project – the Harriet Weider Restoration Project.

Jonathan Snyder commented the Wildlife agencies' review of the land protection assurance documents will not occur in a week. It could be a month or two before this happens but he does not anticipate it will be a problem or this will hold up the project. Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if OCTA intended to include them in the contract. Dan Phu said it is OCTA's intention to include the BCC Proposed Milestone Schedule and any revisions to it into the contract.

Derek McGregor asked if they had a map of the two pieces of property in question. Dan Phu said the total project is roughly eight acres. Approximately four acres are within the City of Huntington Beach's jurisdiction but owned and operated by O.C. Parks. The other half of the project is currently under private ownership. Talks have begun to allow O.C. Parks to eventually take on the portion of the project currently owned by a private land owner.

Derek McGregor asked if a coastal permit had ever been issued. Dan Phu said on the County portion within the City of Huntington Beach's jurisdiction there was a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) issued. It is his understanding BCC has talked to the city and they believe they can piggyback on the city's permit.

Grace Adams said to clarify – The entire area is within the Harriet Weider Regional Park of about 106 acres. In 1997 (approximately) the County of Orange put together a General Development Plan. Fifty percent (50%) of the property itself is in City of Huntington Beach's jurisdiction, 50% is under the County's jurisdiction but the entirety is managed by O.C. Parks. Both the City of Huntington Beach and the County applied for a CDP for their respective jurisdictions for phase one implementation of the General Development Plan. The CDP for the City's portion of the General Development Plan had already occurred. Residents in the area had asked for a playground for the area. However, the County portion of the CDP has not been utilized. They are working with the County and the Coastal Commission to make it applicable.

Derek McGregor asked how much of the \$475,000 have been used. Monte Ward said the money for the project has been awarded but no funds have been used.

The EOC discussed the Proposed Milestone Schedule and whether some of the milestones are going to be able to be made.

## **5. Resource Management Plans Summary**

Lesley Hill gave a brief overview on the progress of the Resource Management Plans (RMP).

Monte Ward went over some of the RMP input from the public. He said public access is part of the RMP and it is the most visible and the area of the most interest expressed by the public. He identified some of the trail systems on OCTA property. He said a trail system has been identified that primarily utilizes the access roads that were there when OCTA obtained the property.

In the comments received so far there has been quite a lot of comments on how the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan system fits in with the preserve. Monte Ward said what is generally being said is that when there is a trail link or system being implemented up to OCTA's boundary then they can talk about how they would accommodate that trail system. The other issue is if you implement a trail on OCTA's preserve that just goes

boundary to boundary on private property it creates its own issues in terms of management and interest of the neighboring property owners.

## 6. Public Comments

Delma Johnson, resident of Trabuco Canyon since 1977. Delma Johnson talked about the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan in terms of connections to the regional control system. Comments on the Trabuco Canyon trail closure should have been addressed within the comment phase of OCTA's DEIR/EIS that closed on February 6, 2015. She has not seen any written or verbal indication that OCTA addressed the issue of their trail closures or defined how they are going to mitigate the potential significant environmental impact to the Trabuco Canyon community within the California Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines.

Harry Huggins, Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks. Harry Huggins said his group is fully in support of the preservation efforts OCTA is taking.

## 7. Committee Member Reports

Dan Silver said he is fully in favor of the 'staged' approach to property access. There are cases where parts of habitat preserves have been overrun by mountain bikers who have trespassed, cut fencing, and generally vandalized property. He would recommend the "go slow" approach giving his experience.

Melanie Schlotterbeck said she had read a couple of the RMP's and noticed there were no cost estimates or information on the endowments. Can we expect to get this information at some time? Dan Phu said approximately one year ago they set the endowment at \$784,000 per year on an annual basis to manage all properties. Some of the properties were more expensive to manage than other properties. The endowment framework has been approved by the EOC and the OCTA Board but the actual endowment has not been set up yet. Next year when it is time to set up the endowment OCTA will need to get new cost estimates.

Melanie Schlotterbeck said it is her recommendation they add the endowment information at a later date as an appendix. They will get more specific on what the costs will be.

Monte Ward said once the RMPs are completed we are anticipating having serious discussions with potential long term land managers. At this time we get much more specific in terms of what the costs will be.

Melanie Schlotterbeck said it sounds like there is going to be an evasive species plan and a fire management plan individualized for each RMP. OCTA set aside \$2.5 million to do the NCCP/HCP. Do these other plans get incorporated under this or are they an additional expense? Dan Phu said things like this were built into the framework of the plan.

**8. Next Meeting – January**

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

**9. Adjournment**

Melanie Schlotterbeck said four or five years ago her niece was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease with a life expectancy of two years. Today is her niece's sixth birthday and she would like to adjourn the EOC meeting in her honor. The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.