

**Santa Ana River Trail & Parkway Partnership
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2007 10 a.m.
East Anaheim Community Center
8201 East Santa Ana Canyon Road
Anaheim, CA
714/765-3904**

(Off the 91 FWY at the Weir Canyon Road exit)

Paul Frandsen, Regional Park & Open-Space District, Riverside County
Mark Brewer, Regional Park & Open-Space District, Riverside County
Maureen Gayk, Regional Park & Open-Space District, Riverside County
Patricia Lock-Dawson, Consultant
Brian Petree, City of Norco
Mark Wills, City of Corona
Dana Roachat, The Wildlands Conservancy
Naomi Gruenthal, City of Anaheim
Marie Knight, City of Orange
Steve Campbell, City of Yorba Linda
Enrique Arroyo State Parks
John Rowe, State Parks
Maureen Snelgrove, San Bernardino County
Jeff Dickman, Harbors Beaches & Parks, Orange County

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Self-introductions were made (see above).

2. Progress Updates

A. Project Reports along the River

San Bernardino County

Maureen Snelgrove noted that the consultant has been chosen for Phase IV of the project from Alabama Street to the wash. The project should start soon.

Riverside County

Marc Brewer, Park Planner, Riverside County Park District gave the following update.

The Park District Proposition 50 grant was accepted for full funding for the 2.2 miles of trail from Green River to Highway 71. The SARI

line will be followed. There will be Interpretive panels, overlooks and connections to State Parks land.

The Park District is negotiating the Proposition 50 Grant Agreement with the Resource Agency and developing partnerships with SAWPA and State Parks toward this endeavor.

Park District staff provided input for the County's portion of Proposition 84 grant cycles. A project match was received from the Board of Supervisors for around \$900,000; total project cost is \$2.6 million. Project management may be done with the City of Corona. NEPA and CEQA are required. The theme is consistent with other trail developments. The project will start at the Orange County line back towards Riverside. Work will then be done at Stagecoach Park in Corona to Wayne Makin Park in Norco, then to Hidden Valley.

Norco

Brian Petree said that they are meeting with Orange County Water District regarding ponding at Wayne Makin Park. They are taking this to City Council and local various commissions for support.

Paul Frandsen mentioned that this is a 400-acre wetlands project on land that the Riverside County Regional Park District manages, but is mostly Corps land. Paul Frandsen said that the Park District has suggested that a public access component be there.

Brian Petree noted that Orange County Water District is willing to work with the TAC on this. Mr. Petree said that the TAC may be asked for a letter of support.

The Norco City Council initiated an MOI on 130 acres of land near Riverside, the Silver Lakes property. This includes a staging area, camping area, soccer facility, and hunter jumper shows. Key component is to work with the TAC as part of the Santa Ana River.

Orange County

Jeff Dickman noted that their Proposition 40 grant is being completed. There will be three miles of riding and hiking trails. The Army Corps is completing 3-4 reaches of landscaping along the river with drought tolerant plants. The SARI line is coming along.

Patricia Lock-Dawson noted that the primary consultant on the Proposition 84 initiative (Conservation Strategy Group) has been retained by the Wildlands Conservancy to assist all the member agencies within the Partnership (cities, counties) with identifying funding opportunities for parkway projects. The Partners anticipate that the \$45 million in Proposition 84 for SAR Parkway will probably be exhausted in finishing the backbone of the trail. Wildlands would like to pursue other funding to develop the Parkway beyond the backbone.

Conservation Strategy Group, working with Patricia Lock-Dawson, has been setting up meetings with interested cities.

B. Green River Project - Pinch Point Update

Paul Frandsen gave an update on the pinch point for Green River. There has been a subsequent meeting for this. Thanks were given to Jeff Beehler and Celesta Cantu of SAWPA as well as Jeff Dickman of Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks for their involvement in addressing this issue. Mr. Frandsen noted that there should be no impact to State Parks.

Jeff Dickman may coordinate another meeting for this subject.

3. Proposition 50 application – Update

There is another round of funds available. Maureen Snelgrove said that there is River Parkways monies available. There are technical workshops in Anaheim on August 16. Ms. Snelgrove said that perhaps the TAC can look for projects as a whole and individually.

4. Proposition 84 – Update

It was mentioned that Tasha Newman, from Conservation Strategies Group, gave an overview of what the Conservation Strategies Group does to assist cities and counties with Proposition 84 workshops at the June 20, 2007 TAC meeting.

Patricia Lock-Dawson gave an overview of the five-year work plan. She received a few comments regarding this plan. The plan will be revisited annually. The plan is used for a basis for funding requests for the \$45 million in Proposition 84 funds. Ms. Lock-Dawson will meet with the Coastal Conservancy in September. Plans are to take the proposals from the three counties for the first year. The proposals are: \$2 million from Orange County; \$1.8 Riverside County; and \$1 million from San Bernardino.

Ms. Lock-Dawson has also talked to Joe Cave's group about how the work plans are related.

The work plan and the three counties proposals will be taken to the Coastal Conservancy in December.

The TAC was invited to the Coastal Conservancy Board meeting in Los Angeles on December 13.

5. PAG Report – Patricia Lock-Dawson – update

The way Proposition 84 is written, of the \$45 million available, \$10 million will go to each County (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino). There remains \$15 which has not been earmarked for any specific project. The PAG would like to see the remainder \$15 million used at the Prado Basin. Most of the

Prado Basin is in Riverside County. The goal is to not have the lions share in one County. The PAG will look into the use of the \$15 million at a later time.

Ms. Lock-Dawson has met with Senator Feinstein's office regarding facilitation of work in the Prado Basin. Senator Feinstein's office set up a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and will be including language in this year's Water Resources Development Act to give more local control over trail building efforts in the Prado Basin.

Paul Frandsen noted that the Riverside County lobbyist mentioned that at the State Capitol the Santa Ana Trail was called out with three actions taken. The lobbyist is seeking funds through Congressman Calvert. They are also looking for assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The PAG (Policy Advisory Group) approved the logo for the Santa Ana River Trail & Parkway. It should be on SAWPA's website.

The PAG is also pleased with the progress of the work plan.

6. Sub Committee Report - Update

A. Operations & Maintenance Subcommittee

Jim Real, Chair of the Operations & Maintenance Subcommittee, has had a medical situation that will curtail him from attending meetings for a while. For the interim, Jeff Dickman has been asked to take over the subcommittee.

The draft mission statement language for the O&M subcommittee was distributed for the group. Two tasks were identified. The recommendation to the TAC for the PAG is that a cost analysis be done.

The TAC accepted the report as received and file.

Snelgrove/Knight, all agreed:

that the O&M subcommittee should move forward with Task 2, option 1 of the mission statement of the Operations & Maintenance subcommittee:

Task #2, Option #1 – Establish a minimum level of maintenance

Recommendation:

Task: Tri-County Operations and Maintenance Committee to develop a "guide for Minimum Maintenance Practices: for the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway.

Goal: To produce a brief, useable guidebook that would provide the three counties management and staff with

consistent direction regarding the acceptable level of maintenance.

It was suggested that when the draft guide book is done that it be taken to the PAG for approval.

Patricia Lock-Dawson noted that support for signage and a website will be included in this year's request for funds.

It was also suggested that the O&M subcommittee address patrols, safety and programming in the plan.

7. Work Plan Status – Update

This was discussed under Item 3.

8. Watershed Planning – Update

SAWPA is doing a watershed plan for 2008. The Park District was asked to take on the public access and recreation component. On June 28, 2007 the Park District sponsored a "One Water, One Watershed" pillar 8 meeting. TAC members were invited along with others from all three counties. A hard copy of the ideas formulated at this meeting were distributed.

The next step will be to formulate text for SAWPA's consideration, with the end production being a series of projects from each County. Mr. Frandsen suggested that cities talk to their county park leaders. Each county would have projects for Proposition 84. This would be one part of Proposition 84 funding through 2030.

9. Round Table

Patricia Lock-Dawson mentioned that SAWPA has purchased two domain names for the river trail. They are: thesantaanarivertrail.org and therivertrail.org.

The following vote took place:

thesantaanarivertrail.org 7

therivertrail.org 2

TAC members preferred thesantaanarivertrail.org.

John Rowe mentioned that State Parks embraces the Santa Ana River project. They would like to be included in the five-year work plan. State Parks concern is for existing property and the future SARI line that could change property for mitigation. This goes with State Parks mission to create trails and recreational opportunities. Some of the proposed areas are not within State Parks general plan as far as recreation areas. State Parks is fully committed to the project.

10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Location: Anaheim location

11. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.