

Santa Ana River Trail & Parkway Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

April 18, 2012

Meeting Summary

Members Present

Scott Bangle, Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District
Jeff Dickman, County of Orange
Pamela Galera, City of Anaheim
Phil Krause, County of San Bernardino
Patricia Lock-Dawson, PLD Consulting
Eldona Reasoner-Arns, San Bernardino Trails & Greenways
Kyla Brown, Riverside Country Parks & Recreation
Jeff Beehler, SAWPA, Chair
Dawna Munson, SAWPA, Recording Secretary

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, located at 11615 Sterling Ave., Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made. Jeff Beehler chaired the meeting.

2. **Trail Construction Updates**

Annual Report: Jeff Beehler

- The PAG focused on trail construction. The TAC should consider preparing an annual report as a means of providing a progress update. Mayor Loveridge is eager to see the progress made, and he also wants to assure everyone that help is available when needed, for any issues, questions, or concerns in order to keep this project's momentum.
- Discussion ensued as to the best approach and format for the annual report. It needs to be a user-friendly document that clearly outlines the work that has been done—a clean, straight-forward one-page report showing each of the partners' activities and accomplishments. Most of the information can be pulled from the Counties' existing documents to comprise the report. The goal is to have it ready by January 2013.
- An alternate approach may be to produce a short video that provides a clear communication tool for the Trail's status. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Patricia Lock-Dawson will forward to Kyla Brown a video that can be uploaded to the website, as well as a one-page document she had prepared of five-year milestones that also can be used as a model.

San Bernardino: Phil Krause

- San Bernardino Parks now has the final environmental documents needed for Phase 3. The next step is to go to SANBAG to get it to the CTC group for their hearing, and tapping the funding to get it constructed. They hope to see Phase 3 constructed before the end of the year.
- For Phase 4, there are 18 parcels to acquire, which real estate services is working on. They're currently focusing on reaches A & B. They're waiting on the final environmental requirements.

Orange County: Jeff Dickman

- Phase I was completed a year ago – the alignment study to bring the trail and bikeway the last two miles from Gypsum Canyon to Green River Golf Course. They have several different potential alignments with varying costs. They've drafted a scope for preparing the environmental documentation to have a vendor look at a mitigated negative declaration (MND) that RBF produced for them for Phase I. The area their trail and bikeway is on also is within a habitat management plan area for the Santa Ana River, which is getting a lot of attention from resource agencies. So, they will seek a second opinion that their MND is sufficient. If it is, they'll move forward with the documentation and then the plans and specs. They recently had a survey done of the River in their project area and also in Brush Canyon, and it's believed that this survey will fulfill the plant and animal survey obligation that was specified in the MND.
- They anticipate having a vendor to do the environmental assessment by the end of June, and then bid the plans and specs late 2012 or early 2013. He noted that they do not have all the information yet for the Habitat Management Plan.

Riverside: Scott Bangle

- Norco Linkage: Riverside County Parks went to the Board last week with construction documents. They have the plans and were looking into what could be done quickly without lengthy design, and found that they can begin striping the Norco city streets right away.
- Pinch-points: They've scheduled a pinch-point meeting for May 23, looking at where Orange County connects with Riverside and confirming the trail's placement. The next step is to meet with Orange County to assure that the northern trail connects when it is finished.
- Hidden Valley: They went to the Board Tuesday to get approval for paving the 1.2 miles at Hidden Valley. That will improve parking for those who want to use the trail. They're out to bid now.

3. PAG Report – Update: Patricia Lock-Dawson

- The Counties have some upcoming changes in leadership such as Supervisor Campbell and Mayor Loveridge leaving office soon, and potentially Supervisor Tavaglione. Discussion ensued as to how these leadership changes may impact the PAG and the Santa Ana River Trail project.
- The PAG had discussed having more events on the trail; one suggestion was to hold a marathon.

4. Signage and Public Information

- The PAG approved standards for signage in November, and each County Supervisor sent out a letter to the cities asking them to adopt those standards. The City of Riverside was the first to do so.
- Patricia Lock-Dawson currently is working with the Supervisors' offices to track the adoption progress, and they will contact the cities about getting that moving forward.

5. Old Business

O&M Cost Accounting to PAG:

- Scott Bangle said that the maintenance costs are five cents per square foot. Pam Galera will forward to everyone a full list of all the O&M costs.

Website:

- There are concerns that the website is not being adequately maintained. Ideas were discussed about the most efficient and cost-effective way to maintain the website. Scott Bangle will call each of the County Directors about it.
- Patricia Lock-Dawson also has a contact for this type of work, should the partners decide to hire someone if it can't be done in-house.
- This item will be agendaized for the July TAC meeting.

Line striping on the trail:

- Jeff Beehler asked if the Counties had planned to do the line striping jointly or individually. The Counties will proceed individually with the striping; some will be done with paint, and some will be done with synthetic materials.
- Ms. Lock-Dawson requested that everyone keep her informed of any progress being made on striping or signage, so she can get photos and prepare press releases to further demonstrate celebratory milestones.

6. New Business - Action

Golf course to the railroad

- The TAC needs to pin down who will do the work on this part of the trail and how it will be funded. An initial step is to get an engineer's ballpark cost estimate and determine who will be the lead on it, and then determine how it will get built and funded. Lengthy discussion ensued, and it ultimately was agreed that a portion of each County's funding of \$15 million should go toward completing this work. Each of the Counties will gather their information to provide an itemized list of anything that exceeds \$10 million, and forward it to Jeff Beehler by May 4.
- This item will be agendaized for the July TAC meeting.
- The issue of safety and security on the trail is another item to be put on the next agenda in light of some recent crime activity. The group needs to discuss policy on safety coordination efforts between the Counties.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2012; 10:00 a.m. at SAWPA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.