

Santa Ana River Trail & Parkway Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

January 30, 2013

Meeting Summary

Present

Chris Boatman, City of Redlands
Phil Kraus, County of San Bernardino
Sean Kelleher, City of Highland
Jeff Dickman, Orange County Public Works
Pamela Galera, City of Anaheim
Maureen Brooks, City of Corona
John H. Anderson, Orange Coast River Park, Inc.
Marc Brewer, Riverside County Parks
Keith Herron, Riverside County Parks
Eldona Reasoner-Arns, San Bernardino Trails & Greenways
Kelly Elliott, California State Parks
Patricia Lock-Dawson, PLD Consulting
Jeff Beehler, SAWPA, TAC Chair
Monobina Mukherjee, SAWPA
Dawna Munson, SAWPA, TAC Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. at the office of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, located at 11615 Sterling Ave., Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

2. California Water Bond

Jeff Beehler said there's a good probability that the Water Bond everyone sees in 2014 will be trimmed and modified from the original. There will be a lot of resources directed toward the Delta, and some trimming in other areas. With that in mind, those groups in need of Bond funds should engage their legislative representatives when the process begins to make sure their voices are heard. Informational flyers will be available down the line. Patricia Lock-Dawson will prepare a one-page document for the trail and provide it to those who want it. She is unsure at this point if the PAG will lobby for water bond funding. It will be a policy decision as to how they want to proceed.

Annual Report – Data Request

Jeff Beehler said that only some of the group members have supplied data for the report. The PAG will want to know what was done with the money everyone received. Please provide talking points to put on a map so we can provide insets on the report. Monobina Mukherjee of SAWPA will be coordinating the information for the report, so please contact her with the information.

Patricia Lock-Dawson suggested some types of statistical information that would be good for everyone to include in their reporting data, such as the number of trail miles, the number of cities or residents, the number of parks or access points, etc.

Eldona Reasoner-Arns noted that the emphasis should be on multi-purpose trails. She receives many comments that the equestrian component is seldom mentioned. The group agreed that the focus is very much multi-purpose.

3. Goals and Objectives for 2013

Jeff Beehler said the group previously had discussed the issue of trail safety, and the need to provide some guidance and information to our elected officials. As people are starting to use the trail, it's a reminder to meet with our emergency responders, as well as discuss preparing a guidance document. It will be a tool – a set of guidelines—to make sure the bases are covered. Pamela Galera said that the Anaheim firefighters are on board with that and would like to be involved. Patricia Lock-Dawson will contact the Riverside Fire Dept., and Phil Krause will check with the San Bernardino Fire Dept. It was noted that mile-markers also need to be implemented on the trail to aid trail users in case of an emergency. The Safety Committee members will be Pamela Galera, Marc Brewer, Patricia-Lock Dawson, and Jeff Beehler.

Discussion ensued about preparing a policy regarding the use of bollards, and consideration for speed limits, blind curves, and collisions, etc. The Committee also should take into consideration the changing technology, i.e. cell phones, GPS, etc., which can facilitate safety solutions. It's important for trail users to know what to expect and know the process/ramifications of accidents. The Committee will consider all of these elements and identify the issues as discussed by the TAC.

4. Project Progress Reports

County Reports:

Mark Brewer – Riverside County: For Santa Ana River Prop 50, they're coordinating a multi-agency meeting with the Flood Control District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), State Parks, and others. They have a lot of work to do to protect the Brine Line. He invited Jeff Beehler to attend. Their portion of the CEQA work was completed, but based on information at a multi-agency meeting, they may have to do a revision; they've been given a one-year extension to complete the CEQA requirement. The Santa Ana River Trail project with the City of Corona—bike trail striping and improvement—goes before their City Council on February 6. They did a similar agreement with the City of Norco, which went to their Board January 16, and will go to Riverside County's Board in the next few weeks. They're in the process of doing a bollard inventory analysis at Hidden Valley. The Harrison Bridge is being temporarily paved, as they're in the process of removing the contractor from the project.

Phil Krause – San Bernardino County: Maureen Gayk will meet today with the new Third District Supervisor and provide an introduction to regional parks. She has taken the reigns of Phase 4; they're doing a cost balance analysis on the plans/design. For Phase 3, all the plans have been checked by the City and it went well. However, the City of San Bernardino had a number of geotechnical questions in terms of bridge abutments. It's about 99 percent complete. There was an issue regarding some private land, which is being addressed by the oversight commission, so they hope to get the okay to use that land for the trail.

Jeff Dickman – The Board of Supervisors approved hiring an AE to assist the County in preparing an EIR, as they weren't comfortable with the initial study that was done. They should be on board in the next few months. They have a draft scope awaiting State approval. They believe they should be far enough along in the environmental work in September to know what their trail alignment is for the bikeway. They most likely will prepare a scope of work for plans and specs later this year. They're about a year away from getting all the mechanics done for everything. They're also looking at newly built channel improvements, which include the service road and levy. There's much activity toward getting the trail done.

Other Reports/Comments

Kelly Elliot – California State Parks: She suggested that when meeting with the emergency responders, to not assume that they know how to get to the trail, as not all of them may know. She will be happy to provide her input as to the State Parks' viewpoint.

Maureen Brooks – City of Corona: The City is in the construction document phase of the SART, but they still have some issues from the previous phase. RBF Consulting has been hired to help work out some of the issues, and they've set up meetings for next week with the ACOE and OCWD.

John Anderson – The Orange County River Park committee has incorporated. Better coordination is needed with the ACOE. Costa Mesa is doing a lot of great things such as a 37-acre wetlands rehabilitation, in which OCRP is assisting in some of the planting. Costa Mesa is looking to foster good trail connections. There may be a major update to the Fairview Park Master Plan, which could have some consequences for that area. In Huntington Beach, there are some issues with SCE, so they could lose some of the potential land along the River there. There's currently some political sensitivity in Newport Beach, as Sunset Ridge off of Pacific Coast Highway has some legal issues. He'll discuss these and a few other issues as more information is available.

Pamela Galera – The City of Anaheim has adopted the signage guidelines. The Anaheim Cove is now complete. They had a meeting with the OCWD property management committee and they have approved moving forward, so that's a very important big step. They are working with three property owners in that segment.

Patricia Lock-Dawson – The PAG didn't have its regular meeting in January due to the large turnover in members due to election results. Supervisor Ramos was appointed Tuesday. In the city of Riverside, Mayor Loveridge was replaced by Mike Gardiner. In San Bernardino County, the Mayors in Redlands and the City of San Bernardino still are on board. They will have a face-to-face meeting in Riverside; the agenda will be light. She welcomed any TAC members to attend to support their PAG representative.

Sean Kelleher – the City of Highland just received a RTP grant from 2010. They're working on a regional trail segment that will connect to the SART. On April 13, they'll have an opening of their nature education facilities and natural parkland, which also will connect. In the next couple of weeks, their Trails Committee will be looking at the Harmonies Specific Plan, which is on the Orange County Flood Control District property. It ultimately will have the very last section of the Santa Ana River Trail. They soon will meet with Lewis Operating Corp. who will be making a second presentation to their Trails Committee.

Chris Boatman – City of Redlands: They've been getting up to speed with their plan checks. They had a meeting late last year with Phil and Maureen to take a macro look at the permitting process through the area, and they've made a lot of headway. For local efforts, they've received two grants in the last year. An earlier one is with SANBAG for \$900,000 to fund a 1.3 mile leg of their Orange Blossom Trail, which will connect with the SART at two points. They also were just made aware of the California River Parkway grant to fund about a mile of the Trail on the westerly end of the City. About 2-1/2 miles of the seven mile trail will be publicly funded.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held March 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.