



AGENDA

Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

*Lisa Bartlett, Chair
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair
Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury
Association of OC
Lori Donchak, OCTA Board of Directors
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Derek McGregor, DMC Engineering
Veronica Li, US Army Corps of Engineers
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife
Service
Anthony Villa, Taxpayers Oversight
Committee Representative
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conservation
Board*

*Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street, Room 07
Orange, California*

Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact the OCTA Clerk of the Board, telephone (714) 560-5676, no less than two (2) business days prior to this meeting to enable OCTA to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approval of May 4, 2016 Minutes**
- 4. Harriett Wieder Restoration Project Update**
Lesley Hill, OCTA
Dave Pryor, Bolsa Chica Conservancy

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC) presented a status update to the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) in late 2015. The EOC requested that staff provide monthly status updates and that BCC return every three months with a progress report. A status report on the project will be provided by the Bolsa Chica Conservancy staff this month, which includes updated information on the project footprint, cost, and schedule.

Recommendation

- *Endorse the Bolsa Chica Conservancy's revised project footprint and schedule as outlined herein.*
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AGENDA

Environmental Oversight Committee

5. M2 Revenue Forecast Update

Dan Phu and Kirk Avila, OCTA

The Environmental Mitigation Program allocates at least 5% of the anticipated freeway program revenues from the Measure M2 sales tax. The freeway program is comprised of 43% of the overall M2 budget. Staff will present an updated forecast on the M2 sales tax.

6. Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC: Residual Parcels Sale

Dan Phu, OCTA

OCTA acquired the Ferber Ranch from the Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC (TCC) in May 2011. During this transaction, two residual parcels were carved out and retained by TCC. TCC has offered these two parcels to OCTA for purchase. During the May 4th EOC, OCTA staff provided a report of the re-evaluation of these parcels utilizing the Board-approved criteria developed for the OCTA M2 EMP acquisition property process. The EOC requested that staff conduct additional research in regard to the following items: if additional restoration is needed to obtain full mitigation credits, long term land management and maintenance requirements as well as if there are additional costs that might affect the EMP. Staff will provide an update pursuant to this request.

7. Ferber Ranch Preserve Hike and Equestrian Ride

Marissa Espino, OCTA

On Saturday, June 25th, OCTA will host a guided hike at the Ferber Ranch Preserve in Trabuco Canyon. An equestrian ride will immediately follow the guided hike. Staff will provide a brief summary about these scheduled public events.

8. Public Comments

Members of the public may address the EOC regarding any item. Please complete a speaker's card and submit it to the EOC or notify the EOC the item number on which you wish to speak. Speakers will be recognized by the Chair at the time the agenda item is to be considered. A speaker's comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes.

9. Committee Member Reports

10. Next Meeting – July 6, 2016

11. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, 600 South Main Street, First Floor – Conference Room 154, Orange, California.



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

*Lisa Bartlett, Chairman
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair
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*

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

Member(s) Absent

*Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Assoc. of O.C.
Lori Donchak, Board of Directors
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers*

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1. Welcome

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Melanie Schlotterbeck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of March 2, 2016 Minutes

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 2, 2016 EOC minutes. A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Anthony Villa, and passed unanimously to approve the March 2, 2016 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

4. Harriett Wieder Restoration Projects Update

Lesley Hill introduced David Pryor from the Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC) who provided an overview of the Harriett Wieder Restoration Project. Ken Keitzer of the BCC also provided a status update on the project.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if the increased acreage comes with an increased price tag. David Pryor said he believes that it's completely doable with this budget.

Derek McGregor asked for clarification on the project map. David Pryor pointed out the differences in the previous map, the current map, and the value of the changes.

Derek McGregor asked if there is continuity between the three pieces of land and does there need to be continuity. Jonathan Snyder said it is all close to being connected and it is helpful to have the restoration connected. David Pryor said the wildlife can still move between the parcels.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if it is all within County parks land. David Pryor said yes, except one small strip.

Dan Phu suggested the BCC come back to this committee with the revised scope changes. Chairman Lisa Bartlett agreed.

5. United States Forest Service Dam Removal Project

Lesley Hill gave an overview of the outstanding M2 restoration project needs and asked the EOC to consider endorsing the funding of the United States Forest Service San Juan Creek Dam Removal project.

Melanie Schlotterbeck said this is a different process than we have been through, specifically because of the fish. She asked Lesley Hill to outline another project that has gone through this type of review. Lesley Hill said this is different than anything done before – it is a very specific need.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked how all this gets wrapped into the conservation plan and will it be ready for approval in the fall. Lesley Hill said there is a lot more to be done and it will not be ready for approval in the fall. This portion will likely be an amendment to the M2 Annual Report.

Jonathan Snyder said, the way it is laid out in the plan, there is no specific timeframe. Lesley Hill agreed. Jonathan said hopefully this project will meet the commitment to the plan.

Derek McGregor asked if staff is asking the committee to endorse the funding of the project. Lesley Hill said that is correct.

A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Derek McGregor, and passed unanimously to endorse staff's recommendations to fund the United States Forest Service San Juan Creek Dam Removal project.

6. Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC: residual parcels sale

Dan Phu provided an update on the Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC (TCC): residual parcels sale.

Public Comment

Gloria Sefton spoke in favor of acquiring the property. Saddleback Canyon Conservancy supports the acquisition of the additional two properties. It is an important habitat.

Dan Silver asked if it is Class 1 based on connectivity. Lesley Hill said it is Class 1 connectivity on the Rose Canyon side, and due to the habitat and the gnatcatcher occurrence (based on a study several years ago).

Dan Silver asked what the development potential is and what the downside is to acquiring the property and how many homes are involved. Dan Phu said, with respect to the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan, roughly 10 homes can be built based on a ratio of 1 unit per four acres.

Dan Silver asked what the next steps are. Dan Phu said staff would like to know if the EOC would like the committee to continue studying this area.

Dan Silver asked if the money is not spent on this project, what other options are available. Chair Bartlett conveyed that staff wanted to vet the parcel with the EOC and determine the mitigation value so that everyone is comfortable going forward. Dan Phu said staff wanted feedback from the EOC before having discussions with the wildlife agencies about the conservation plan.

Derek McGregor asked if the property can be legally subdivided. Dan Phu said yes.

Derek McGregor asked about the value of the property. Dan Phu said the TCC did not give a value but stated the price is negotiable. He believes it is worth about \$1-\$2M. Derek asked if there are any title issues. Dan said that it is still premature and additional analysis still needs to be done.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked for a comprehensive look at everything at the next EOC meeting. Dan Phu said staff would present the information at the next meeting.

Lisa Bartlett asked when this will be brought to the Board of Directors. Dan Phu said it is still being determined who needs to make the ultimate decision, whether it is this committee or the OCTA Board. Lisa Bartlett said the EOC can look at it a little closer and then it would go to the full Board for final approval.

Dan Silver asked if it is fair to assume the management costs would be low since the parcels are imbedded in the parcel OCTA already owns. Dan Phu said we need to fully understand the legal easements before that can be determined.

Dan Silver said it sounds like OCTA is trying to do its due diligence. Dan Phu said the property owner is waiting to hear if this committee is willing to continue the due diligence or if the committee would like to stop the process.

Lisa Bartlett said the committee would like to continue the due diligence.

7. O'Neill Oaks Hike and Ferber Ranch Equestrian Ride Summary

Marissa Espino provided a brief update on the O'Neill Oaks Hike and Ferber Ranch Equestrian Ride. The next one will be June 25, 2016 on Ferber Ranch and the August one will be at the Aliso Canyon Preserve.

Melanie Schlotterbeck commended OCTA for the O'Neil Oaks event. She said it was well done and very informative.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Committee Member Reports

Dan Silver reported the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition had its annual meeting in Orange County with a good turnout from around the state. The meeting was very informative.

Melanie Schlotterbeck shared that the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted their Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies in April.

10. Next Meeting – June 1, 2016

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Bolsa Chica Conservancy Harriett Weider Restoration Project Original Proposed Project Area (8 acres)



Preferred Project Area (9.5 acres)



Bolsa Chica Conservancy Harriett Weider Restoration Project

Why is Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC) proposing to change the Project Footprint?

1. The proposed change is intended to expedite the project implementation, by shifting the project area from occurring partly on privately owned lands to entirely within publicly owned lands.
2. The main change is one of jurisdiction, and permit ease with the City of Huntington Beach. The increase in acreage was designed to best fit Orange County Parks (OCP) property within City jurisdiction.
3. The change is the quickest way to get the restoration project implemented. This shift in the project area will help limit the need for additional approvals, including amending the Environmental Impact Report, Orange County Planning approvals, and a Coastal Development Permit process from the California Coastal Commission.
4. The Irrevocable Offer of Dedication from the Oil Company to OCP, has an unknown future timing assigned to it. Without OCP acceptance, the project (as previously proposed) is at a standstill and cannot begin.
5. OCP is supportive of the new acreage configuration. They are currently finalizing the long-term protection document for the site.
6. The new acreage contains the flatter portions in the park, which is the preferred habitat for the *Centromadia parryi ssp. australis*, Southern Tarplant which is a rare plant and important to the OCTA Conservation Plan.
7. Even with an increased acreage commitment of 8%, the Conservancy is convinced the restoration area best fits the parcel, and will complete the project within the OCTA Board approved amount of \$475,000.

Milestone Schedule

Date	Task	Status
May 11, 2016	Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) to OCP for review	Pending
May 17, 2016	Request Cultural groups' help	Pending responses, and schedule
June 15, 2016	HRP to City of HB for review and permit	
June 30, 2016	Finalize deed restriction language with OCP	With OCP for final review
July 15, 2016	Public distribution of HRP and receive input	
Fall 2016	Site preparation including invasive plant removal and trail siting	
Fall 2016 – Winter 2017	Container plants/seeds installed	
2017 – 2020	Monitoring and Maintenance Period	

Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC: Residual Parcels Sale
Criteria Under Consideration

	Ferber Ranch Residual Parcel 1 (Hickey Canyon)	Ferber Ranch Residual Parcel 2 (Rose Canyon)	Comments
Biological Criteria			
Does the parcel contain biological resources and values consistent with the potential impacts of the M2 freeway projects?	✓	✓	
Does the parcel have the potential to support OCTA M2 NCCP/HCP Covered species?	✓	✓	
Does the parcel contain a higher percentage of native vegetation vs. disturbed area?	✓	✓	
Would acquisition of the parcel improve connectivity or contiguity to existing conserved areas?	✓	✓	
Would acquisition of the parcel preserve any aquatic resources?	✓	X	No creeks occur within Parcel 2.
Land Use/Connectivity Criteria			
Would the adjacent land use have positive or neutral impacts to long-term preservation of the parcel?	X	✓	Hamilton Trails has emergency access through Parcel 1.
Would the purchase of the property help facilitate access to the existing OCTA Ferber Ranch Preserve?	✓	✓	
Is there public road access to the parcel?	X	X	Rose Canyon/Hickey Canyon roads are private roads. In addition Hickey Canyon road is gated.
Management Criteria			
Does the parcel have few constraints that would affect land management (e.g. known hazardous materials/waste, inadequate access, obstacles to restoration, access easements, etc.)?	X	✓	Access easements exist within Parcel 1.
Could acquisition of this parcel alleviate future management complications in regards to multiple neighbors/encroachment issues?	✓	✓	
Are land management costs consistent with current EMP funding (e.g. utilizing the funds could limit the amount of available funding for the endowment)?	N/A	N/A	
Other Criteria			
Are there possible cultural, archeological, or other historical features that would be protected by acquiring this site?	N/A	N/A	
Would the public and community organizations support the acquisition?	N/A	N/A	
Would updated M2 revenue forecasts have any effect on the acquisition?	N/A	N/A	
✓ = Yes			
X = No			
N/A = information not yet available			

Note: The above criteria are presented to the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) for discussion purposes only. The decision to proceed with the acquisition of the residual parcel(s) is subject to the approval of the EOC and the OCTA Board of Directors.