



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

Lisa Bartlett, Chairman
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair
Lori Donchak, Board of Directors
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Anthony Villa, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.

Orange County Transportation Authority
500 South Main Street, Room 07
Orange, California
Monday, November 21, 2016
2:30 p.m.

Member(s) Absent

Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Assoc. of O.C.
Charles Baker, Caltrans District 12
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conservation Board

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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

Dan Silver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of August 1, 2016 Minutes

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 26, 2016 EOC minutes.

A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck to approve the minutes, seconded by Chairman Lisa Bartlett and passed unanimously to approve the October 26, 2016 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

4. West Loma Restoration Project Update

Lesley Hill gave an update on the West Loma Restoration Project. She introduced Matthew Major of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy. Matthew gave a presentation of the project and the proposed changes to the scope of work.

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked where the screen will be located on the fence. Matthew Major said it has not been determined, but will most likely be on the side that is less likely to be vandalized and it will vary.

Chairman Lisa Bartlett said the light and noise scares the animals away. She asked how thick the screening will be and if it will really block headlights. Matthew Major said many different types of screening materials have been evaluated. He said it will be a mesh that will block 80% of the light and still allow for some air flow. Melanie Schlotterbeck said there is no longer an off ramp at this location and the only one in that area should be California Highway Patrol, so there should not be too much light in the area.

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked about the use of this area by hikers. She understands hikers are not supposed to be in the area at night. Matthew Major said that is correct.

Lori Donchak asked if the grates in the picture would deter the animals. Matthew Major said it is not in the scope of this project and he was unfamiliar with it. Monte Ward said they would go around it because there is no fence on the sides. Matthew Major said it may be there for maintenance vehicle access. Derek McGregor said he believes it is a tracking plate, not a cattle guard.

Jonathan Snyder said this is a great area for wildlife activity and he anticipates there will be some flexibility in the Irvine Ranch Conservancy plan to coordinate with Caltrans.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked about the location of the box culvert due to erosion problems and if they will be cleaned out prior to the installation of new plants. Matthew Major said Caltrans now has a program in place to continually clean out the culverts. Matthew said it is interesting to look back at the camera footage and see how the plant life has thrived since Caltrans implemented this program.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if the information received from the cameras will be shared with other agencies. Matthew Major said yes, we have been in contact with Erin Boydston of the USGS. She has already been sharing information with us and we will reciprocate. Melanie said she hopes the information will be shared with other agencies as well.

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked to see the timeline again. She said she appreciates the cameras going in first so the difference can be seen between the number of animals before the screens go in and after the screens are up.

Derek McGregor asked about the duration. Matthew Major said the West Loma Restoration Project ends in December of 2022. He said that is the upper bound of the project.

Derek McGregor asked if the cameras are live or recording for further collection. Matthew Major said they are motion sensing cameras that record and the information gets collected from the memory cards.

Recommendations

A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck. Lori Donchak seconded the motion and passed unanimously to endorse the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's revised scope of work as described herein for the West Loma Restoration Project.

5. M2 Environmental Mitigation Program Funds Update

Dan Phu presented changes to the M2 Environmental Mitigation Program Funds.

Lori Donchak applauded OCTA finance staff for their hard work. She asked if Dan Phu could share what other uses there are for the funds. Dan Phu said the details would be shared during closed session.

Lori Donchak said she is cautious and wants to keep things on the conservative side and asked when it is considered real money. Monte Ward said we can afford to spend a small portion of the funds. He said this is a small program over time, with a lot of variables. The EOC does need to be cautious of spending at this time. Some of the obligations have already been built into the modeling. He said there will be very little opportunities for this committee to approve expenditures over the next couple years.

Dan Silver asked if the \$10-\$16 million is above the amount of money that will go into the endowment during 2017-2028. Dan Phu said, yes, that is correct. Dan Silver asked if the obligations to maintain these properties come from a separate pot of money. Dan Phu said the \$10-\$16 million is what we have after those obligates are netted out. Dan Silver clarified that the EOC has more than the \$10-\$16 million, but that number reflects what will be available after our obligations. Dan Phu said correct. Dan Silver said the \$10-\$16 million is what we have to "play" with, plus some money will have to go to fixed obligations in the plan like the Arroyo Chub. Dan Phu said yes, but it is not that big of a cushion. The OCTA Board has bonded against future revenues which reduces the capacity.

Dan Silver asked where the bonded money comes from. Dan Phu said it is already included, but does not allow for another major unanticipated fluctuation.

Dan Silver asked if there is money left over. Dan Phu said the money left over was through 2012 and that period has expired. Dan Silver said he thought there was \$1-\$2 million left over. Dan Phu said on the authorization side in 2012 the money was used for hard acquisitions and long term management.

Jonathan Snyder clarified the total revenue from the M2 program for environmental purposes was \$283 million, but the total obligated NCCP is different. Dan Phu said the OCTA Board allocated \$55 million for various activities. \$2.5 million was allocated towards the NCCP activities. He said then, of that amount, \$52.5 million was left. There was an 80/20 split with 80% going to acquisition and 20% going to restoration. He said that is roughly \$10.5 million for restoration and \$42 million for property acquisition. Jonathan asked if the \$273 million is obligated of the total \$283 million. Monte Ward said no, but if we go beyond the cash flow in 2028, then the cash flow changes substantially. Once the endowment is created, payment goes towards the ongoing management. Jonathan Snyder said overall there is no danger of exceeding its total budget, but there could be a cash flow problem due to setting up the endowment early.

Dan Silver asked if the EOC approves the expenditure in closed session, will the money come out of the authorization that is still available. Dan Phu said there is the authorization and then there is the available cash. He said in 2017 there is almost \$16 million available in the cash flow. Lori Donchak said \$2.5 million is committed. Monte Ward said no, the \$2.5 million is the cushion for 2017, but it goes down to \$10 million by 2033.

Dan Silver said there is a \$15 million cushion, but in addition we will have \$10-\$16 million in revenues coming in over the next 10 years. Dan Phu said after everything is paid off in 2017 there is \$15.9 million left. Dan Phu clarified that there is a cushion over each period and if not used it is built upon in the next period. Lori Donchak said the point is we do not have as much of a cushion as we thought we had.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked if there is an update on the charts they were given. Dan Phu said the charts are based on the \$283 million updated forecast. Melanie asked about the date range for pulling money. Dan Phu said the constraint period is 2017-2028. He said we are looking to start the endowment process during the first part of 2017. Melanie said the EOC does not have to spend more money, but we need to take into consideration constraints.

6. Ferber Ranch Preserve Family Event

Marissa Espino said the Ferber Ranch Preserve Family Event took place on November 19th. She said Melanie Schlotterbeck attended the event. Marissa said work is underway to create a master calendar for 2017. She said the ride went well and we will continue those events in 2017.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Committee Member Reports

Lori Donchak said at the OCTA Board Regional Highways Committee the environmental program was pulled and some complimentary things were said about the program.

9. Next Meeting – TBD

10. Closed Session

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.