



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

Lori Donchak, Chairman
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair
Lisa Bartlett, Board of Directors
Dr. David Chapel, Grand Jury Assoc. of O.C.
Chris Flynn, Caltrans District 12
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
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
550 South Main Street, Room 07
Orange, California

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 2:30p

Member(s) Absent

Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering

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

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Lori Donchak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of August, 2017 Minutes

Chairman Lori Donchak asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 4, 2017 EOC minutes. A motion was made by Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Lisa Bartlett and passed unanimously to approve the October 4, 2017 EOC meeting minutes as presented.

4. Environmental Mitigation Program Endowment Fund Investment Report

Rodney Johnson provided an overview of the Environmental Mitigation Program Endowment Fund Investment Report.

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck asked staff to send the item electronically as it was not attached to the agenda.

Chairman Lori Donchak asked about the volatility of the fund. Rodney Johnson said there is currently not a forecast, but he expects it to be successful.

5. State Water Resources Control Board and Army Corps of Engineers Permit Update

Lesley Hill provided background on the State Water Resources Control Board and Army Corps of Engineers Permit. Spencer MacNeil, United States Army Corps of Engineers, provided details on the permitting process to date and next steps.

Chairman Lori Donchak said the OCTA and its Board of Directors are thankful for this master plan for the permitting process. She said it takes some of the risk/uncertainty out of the process and it is environmentally responsible. Chairman Donchak asked if this story is being shared since it seems to be a model project. Spencer MacNeil said there has never been a project quite like this and other agencies are very interested.

6. Restoration Project Update

Lesley Hill introduced Milan Mitrovich of the Natural Communities Coalition, University of California Irvine (UCI) Ecological Reserve Project. Milan provided a summary of the project to date.

Committee members were happy to hear of the success on the UCI campus and asked about the effects of excessive rainfall in 2016/17. Milan Mitrovich said UCI was active with grass removal through 2015 and said many exotic seeds sprouted due to the rain last year. The rain also helped the native shrubs thrive and they dominated the site. He said the growth of grass is a natural part of the process and it does not impact the natural habitat as long as it does not get out of control.

Committee members asked if there is a sunset on the funding of this project. Milan Mitrovich said some of the funds sunset, but UCI is committed to keeping the project going and eventually it will care for itself.

7. Recap of Aliso Canyon and Hayashi Resource Management Plan (RMP) Comments

Lesley Hill provided a recap of the Aliso Canyon and Hayashi RMP Comments.

The committee discussed the next steps. Lesley Hill said the RMP schedule will be finalized in the summer of 2018. Monte Ward clarified once the RMP is completed there will be long-term management of the project.

The committee discussed the quantity and quality of the comments on each property and if the information was available online. Staff said the comments were split equally between the properties and most comments were regarding public access.

8. Preserve Naming Contest

Marissa Espino presented the Preserve Naming Contest and showed a video regarding the contest. Marissa said currently OCTA has over 200 submissions and the deadline is February 16 with the final unveiling on February 24.

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck appreciated the process of making the video.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Committee Member Reports

Chairman Lori Donchak and Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck announced Lesley Hill as OCTA's Administrative Employee of the Year for her hard work on this program. Monte Ward also noted Marissa Espino was previously honored with this award for her work on this program.

David Chapel mentioned Rancho Santa Margarita Water District's use of inflatable dams to prevent runoff. He wonders if this will have any effect on the Environmental Mitigation Program's restoration projects. Chairman Lori Donchak said she would like OCTA staff to look into this.

Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife just put out an article on the steelhead trout. She said the EOC recently discussed this in relation to Trabuco Creek. She said she would share the article with the committee.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2018

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.