



Minutes

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

Committee Members

Lisa Bartlett, Chairman
Melanie Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair
Laurie Davies, Board of Directors
Chris Flynn, Caltrans District 12
Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers
David Mayer, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Derek McGregor, DMc Engineering
Dr. Pauline Merry, Taxpayers Oversight Comm.
Bev Perry, Civic Engagement Consultant
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish & Wildlife
John Walsh, CA Wildlife Conserv. Board

Orange County Transportation Authority
Via Teleconference

Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 2:30pm

Member(s) Absent

Veronica Li, US Army Corp of Engineers
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League

1. Welcome

Chair Lisa Bartlett called the Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by Marissa Espino.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lisa Bartlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of May 6, 2020 Minutes

Chairman Lisa Bartlett asked if there are any additions or corrections to the May 6, 2020 EOC minutes.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Derek McGregor and passed unanimously to approve the May 6, 2020 EOC meeting minutes with two abstentions.

4. OCTA Conservation Plan Annual Report

Dan Phu provided an overview/background of the 2019 OCTA Conservation Plan Annual Report which is the second annual report on the Plan. Lesley Hill provided information on the year starting January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. She said in 2019 four different consistency checklists were completed for four separate M2

freeway projects. All projects were reviewed and verified to be consistent with the NCCP/HCP by the Wildlife Agencies. <Presentation available upon request.>

Melanie Schlotterbeck said congratulations on getting all this documented and put into the annual report. She said it is tough work and she appreciates the effort. Keep up the hard work OCTA, the Wildlife Agencies and all of those working on the projects.

5. Bee Flat Canyon Restoration Project Completion

Lesley Hill highlighted the success of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy's (IRC) Bee Flat Canyon Restoration Project. She provided details as outlined in the presentation. Lesley said once the EOC starts meeting again in person OCTA will bring in the IRC for a full presentation. <Presentation available upon request.>

There were no committee comments.

6. OCTA Pacific Horizon Preserve Habitat Impacts

Lesley Hill provided background on the impacts to the Pacific Horizon Preserve. OCTA continues to work on the issue with the proper authorities. Southern California Edison (SCE) said they are waiting for approval from the California Coastal Commission to conduct the necessary weeding on the unauthorized path and to fix the fence lines. OCTA staff is working with SCE on the easement rights and it is currently with the SCE legal team.

Melanie Schlotterbeck asked what prevents this from happening on another preserve and has OCTA looked at the other preserves to catch this from happening. Lesley Hill said staff is looking into easements (particularly pertaining to utility lines) on all other properties to ensure this does not happen again.

7. 2019 Hikes and Equestrian Rides

Marissa Espino said all the hikes/rides for March through August have been cancelled due to statewide "stay at home" orders. She said OCTA is looking into the feasibility of the September 12, 2020 hike and the September 27, 2020 ride. OCTA does plan to continue these events as soon as it is feasible. Any updates will be shared with the EOC and noticed on OCTA.net.

Chair Lisa Bartlett said OCTA cannot do any sort of mass gatherings out in the public at this time which includes these hikes and rides.

8. Public Comments

Marisa Espino said a public comment was submitted on August 4, 2020 at 4:19 pm by David M. Seroski. Mr. Seroski's comments were provided to the EOC members and will be retained as part of the record for today's meeting.

9. Committee Member Reports

Melanie Schlotterbeck said Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) did quite a bit of research this past spring and into the summer. There are reports related to the impacts on a variety of things such as water quality impacts to parks, sea level rise and tree infestation. Included was regional, state, and federal lands. The documents are available at FHBP.org. She said there are some issues coming up and FHBP wants to make everyone aware. FHBP also did a Wildfire Study and Melanie is happy to provide data on what was found in Laguna Canyon as well as the Santa Ana Mountains.

Melanie Schlotterbeck said as a Hills for Everyone Consultant, OCTA purchased the Eagle Ridge property which is around 300 acres on the western side of Chino Hills State Park. Hills for Everyone just expanded the Chino Hills Preserve. She thanked the Wildlife Conservation Board (John Walsh) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Jonathan Snyder) for their support and help in making this happen. This property is 320 acres and has been on the list for 40 years and it was good to see it finally happen.

10. Next Meeting – November 4, 2020

Chairman Lisa Bartlett thanked all in attendance and said the next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2020.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.