



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

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 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.