

Measure M2 Environmental Oversight Committee

July 18, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Chair Patricia Bates, OCTA Board of Directors
Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck, Measure M Support Groups
David Mayer, CA Department of Fish and Game
Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League
Chris Flynn for Sylvia Vega, Caltrans
Jonathan Snyder, US Fish and Wildlife Services
Greg Winterbottom, OCTA Board of Directors

Committee Member(s) Absent:

Veronica Chan, US Army Corps of Engineers
Nancy Jimeno, California State University, Fullerton
Dave Means, California Wildlife Conservation Board
Adam Probolsky, Probolsky Research

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Marissa Espino, Strategic Communications Officer
Lesley Hill, Planning Department Project Manager
Janice Kadlec, Public Reporter
Dan Phu, Project Development Section Manager
Monte Ward, Consultant

Guests

Michael O'Connell, Irvine Ranch Conservancy

1. Welcome

Vice-Chair Melanie Schlotterbeck welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

2. Approval of June 18, 2012 Minutes

Chair Patricia Bates asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 18, 2012 Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) meeting minutes.

Melanie Schlotterbeck noted on page three Dan Silver also talked about *wildfires adjacent to freeways* as an area of impact analysis which has not been addressed. She would like this incorporated into the minutes.

A motion was made by Melanie Schlotterbeck, seconded by Greg Winterbottom, and passed unanimously to approve the June 18, 2012 EOC meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Acquisition Properties Status

Dan Phu reported later in the meeting there will be a closed session to discuss the six acquisition properties that will need to go through a reappraisal process because it has been more than a year and a half since they were first appraised.

4. Restoration Projects Status

Lesley Hill gave an update on the status of the restoration properties.

Monte Ward asked how things were going with the \$400,000 next round of restoration funding. How are things going with identifying properties with the specific restoration needs required?

Lesley Hill reported the delineation documents were given out six months ago and no feedback has been received. Until feedback is received, the mitigation ratios cannot be determined. Dan Phu said one of the things OCTA is doing to try and solve the problem is to push for meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) senior management.

Chair Patricia Bates asked if OCTA staff knew why there is a delay in getting the information needed. Dan Phu said part of the reason is the lack of experience of the ACOE staff. They did not have the authority to make decisions and had to report to their legal counsel or senior management for a decision. There is a great need for people at the table who can make a decision.

Lesley Hill said another item holding up the process regards the jurisdictional delineation and the functional assessment that needs to be done. The functional assessment is done on the highway end as well as the restoration project. Lesley Hill said, at the last meeting, the ACOE said they were only 20 percent through with the delineation document as well as 20 percent through with the functional assessment.

Monte Ward said it may be appropriate for there to be some communication on the policy level. Very good progress is being made with the wildlife agencies and the investment to support them. It is concerning that there is not the parallel level of progress with the ACOE.

5. July 28, 2012 Irvine Ranch Open Space Annual Wilderness Celebration

Marissa Espino gave an update on OCTA's participation in the Irvine Ranch Open Space Annual Wilderness Celebration. This event is being held to commemorate the gift of 20,000 acres of open space to the County of Orange. It will be held in Black Star Canyon where they will be opening up some new trails. Marissa Espino reported invitations will be sent out via the OCTA distribution list.

Chair Patricia Bates asked the time of the event. Marissa Espino said the event will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Director Greg Winterbottom asked if it will be handicap accessible. Marissa Espino said she will get back to him on this.

Michael O'Connell, executive director of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, also gave details of what will be happening at the event.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Committee Member Reports

There were no reports by committee members

8. Next Meeting – TBD

The next EOC meeting has yet to be determined.

9. Adjournment to Closed Session

The regular EOC meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. and went into Closed Session. There were no further actions reported in public session. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.