

# California Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Board Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

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CA Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sequoia Room 950, Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Board Members Present:**

John Mercurio, (Chair) California Recreational Trails Committee (non-motorized)  
Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association (motorized)  
Jeannie Gillen, California Recreational Trails Committee (non-motorized) (present via phone)  
Bob Coomber, Persons with Disabilities Representative

## **Board Members Absent:**

Maryanne Vancio, (Vice Chair), County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation (non-motorized)  
Skip Earwood, Vice President, American Motorcycle Association, District 37 (motorized)

## **Staff Members Present:**

Jean Lacher, Chief, Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), California State Parks  
Viktor Patiño, Manager, OGALS, California State Parks  
Richard Rendón, Supervisor, OGALS, California State Parks  
Natalie Bee, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OGALS, California State Parks  
Sixto Fernandez, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR), California State Parks  
Matt Whamond, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR, California State Parks  
Martha Ibarra, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, OHMVR, California State Parks  
Teresa McWilliam, Program Manager, Active Transportation Program (ATP), Caltrans  
Loretta Christensen, Executive Secretary, OGALS

## **Observers/Members of the Public:**

None

## **Welcome: John Mercurio (Chair), Jean Lacher (Chief, OGALS)**

John opened the meeting by introducing himself. Jean introduced herself and welcomed everyone. Then each Board Member and Staff Member introduced themselves.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

John Mercurio called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked the Board if there was any new business to add to the agenda. There was none.

### **Election of Officers: John Mercurio (Chair)**

John Mercurio opened the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Board Member Amy Granat motioned to re-elect current officer John Mercurio for Chair. Board Member Jeannie Gillen seconded the motion. Board Member Amy Granat motioned to elect herself for Vice Chair. Board member John Mercurio seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved John Mercurio as the Chair and Amy Granat as the Vice Chair.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Jean Lacher, Chief, OGALS, provided a federal funding status update of the RTP in California. Jean gave an update on the NEPA Delegation from FHWA to Caltrans. Jean talked about obligating funds starting with Federal Fiscal Year 2013 when State Parks learned of the available balance. Viktor shared that a key reason for successful obligations includes the encouragement of larger grant amounts, such as \$900,000 per application. In the past, grant requests averaged \$100,000 to \$200,000 per application. This increase of amounts requested helped State Parks meet the obligation target. Viktor remarked that OHMVR also did a good job encouraging larger grant requests from applicants.

Richard Rendón, OGALS, provided a state funding recap and status update of the RTP. Richard reminded the Board of the split between Caltrans ATP and RTP funds. OGALS held an application solicitation in September 2015 and received 74 applications for approximately \$60,100,000. OHV received 28 applications for about \$5,100,000. In December 2016 OGALS announced recommendations for 9 projects at \$8,400,000 and OHV recommended 28 projects for \$5,100,000. From January 2016 to June 2016, OGALS screened ATP projects for Caltrans.

Natalie Bee, OGALS, provided the Board with a list of the 2015 RTP Non-Motorized project recommendations. She described each trail project and gave its benefits. The total amount recommended for funding is \$8,409,768. Of the nine projects recommended for funding, three are approved by the Federal Highway Administration – California Division (FHWA). The remaining projects recommended for funding are completing the federal requirement process through Caltrans (NEPA and Section 106). Then, they will be submitted to FHWA for approval. The recommended projects include new trails, constructing trailheads, pedestrian bridges, and trailside amenities. Most of the recommended projects included significant gap closures to existing trails. The grantees for the recommended projects are City of Eureka, East Bay RPD, City of Fontana, Trukee-Donner RPD, City of Brea, City of Yucaipa, San Diego Canyonlands, City of Arcata, and Forest Trails Alliance. OGALS recommended the County of Sonoma's Taylor Mountain Trail for the upcoming federal fiscal year 2017 funding, as no application cycle will be held in 2017.

OGALS will be revising the procedural guide (separating motorized category from non-motorized) and taking the guides through the Office of Administrative Law process. John remarked that it was great that the program is creating new trail opportunities and also commented that the amount requested and amount funded were large amounts.

Matt Whamond, OHMVR, provided the Advisory Board with a list of 2015 Motorized project recommendations. He explained that there were 28 projects recommended for funding in the amount of \$5,199,270. He said that this year they were very excited to recommend two acquisition projects, several development projects, as well as the typical mapping projects. Of note, Matt highlighted California Trail Users Coalition toilet replacement project in Ballinger Canyon, the Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest South Park Bridge Project, the City of California City's visitor information center, the County of Madera's Blackhawk Ranch land acquisition, the Friends of Jawbone Harts Place acquisition, and Mojave Desert Land Trust's installation of educational kiosks at Chuckwalla Desert Wildlife Management area. OHMVR will have a competitive cycle with an application deadline of September 30, 2016.

Teresa McWilliam, Caltrans, gave an ATP application update. Caltrans will not have an ATP cycle in 2017. She provided a number of applications selected for cycle 1 and cycle 2 in addition to 27 RTP applications for cycle 3 that have been reviewed by Richard Rendón.

Jean talked about revising the guidelines from the 2007 version and that OHMVR will also have separate guidelines for the Motorized component.

Viktor explained to the Board that OGALS is considering prioritizing trails within cities and population centers that also function as active transportation corridors, compared to more remote trails in natural area destinations. The Board discussed if one should be prioritized over the other. Some Board members felt that it is important to prioritize trails that also function as active transportation corridors, while other Board members felt that they should share equal priority with natural area destination trails that do not have a dual purpose of functioning as active transportation corridors.

**Open Comment Period: John Mercurio, Observers/Members of the Public:**

No comments from members of the public.

**Conclusion:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.