

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

Dana Point City Council Chambers
33282 Golden Lantern Street
Dana Point, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, February 27, 2004

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Caryl Hart, Chair
Gail Kautz
Sophia Scherman
Phillip Tagami
Paul Junger Witt

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Joseph Cotchett
Raquelle de la Rocha, Vice Chair
Clint Eastwood
Bobby Shriver

STATE PARKS STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Coleman, Director
Ted Jackson, Southern Division Chief
Tim La Franchi, Chief Counsel
Don Monahan, Chief Ranger, Doheny State Beach
Louis Nastro, Assistant to the State Park and Recreation Commission
Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications
Kathryn Tobias, Legal Counsel
Mike Tope, Superintendent, Orange Coast District

SPEAKERS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

Karen Ezell, Kayak Fishing
Sara Feldman, California State Parks Foundation
Nick Leary, Individual
Don Porter, Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, the California State Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by Chair Caryl Hart. Chair Hart introduced the commissioners present and noted that three new members were attending their first Commission meeting today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2003 MEETING IN SAN JOSE

Chair Hart asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the August 22, 2003 meeting in San Jose. There being no changes, Chair Hart asked for the motion to approve the minutes. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Tagami. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Hart called on State Parks Director Ruth Coleman to present her Director's Report.

New Commissioners – Director Coleman introduced the three new commissioners present and provided brief biographical information:

Commissioner Phillip Tagami is also a member of the State World Trade Commission, and served on the Board of Commissioners for the Port of Oakland. The Oakland resident is a real estate developer and investor, and has been a member of the Oakland Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Lodi resident Gail Kautz has an agricultural background and owns Ironstone Winery in Murphys, California. Commissioner Kautz is a former member of the California State Fair Board, and served as that body's first woman chair. Commissioner Kautz is also a former member of the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service, the organization that oversees AmeriCorps and Conservation Corps efforts. Commissioner Sophia Scherman is Mayor of the City of Elk Grove, California, and also works as a local and regional community advocate for persons with disabilities.

New Administration & Staff – Director Coleman noted that Governor Schwarzenegger and new Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman had shown extraordinary support for State Parks. Director Coleman also announced the appointment of new State Parks Cultural Division Chief Walter Gray, who had recently served as State Archivist.

Budget and Fiscal Issues – Director Coleman stated State Parks was facing a great many fiscal challenges. She noted that State Parks' treatment in the current governor's budget was exceptional considering California's overall fiscal condition. She explained that over the past three years State Parks had cut \$20 million out of the budget which provides for the operational needs of the State Park System. Director Coleman stated that the department was set to lose a further \$15 million of General Fund money, but that State Parks had been given the authority to raise park fees in an attempt to make up the deficit this would create.

Fee increases will be starting July 1, 2004, though some new fees have already taken effect as a result of camping reservations that are made as much as seven months in advance. Director Coleman noted that the fee increases had so far apparently not had an effect on the public's desire to camp, as evidenced by the all-time high number of camping reservations received this year. She noted that on January 2nd, 2004, the first day reservations were accepted, 3,000 more reservations were made than had been made on the same day the previous year. In February 2004, another record was broken as 13,500 reservations were accepted in a single month – the highest number ever. Director Coleman noted that a new, market-based approach to establishing fees was being employed this year, as an alternative to having the same fee across the board for every park and every campsite. This will allow fees to be kept low in parks that experience high use by low-income families. State Historic Parks with relatively low visitation rates would also charge lower fees, in contrast to high-use parks like urban beaches, where fees will increase. Fees will also be adjusted by seasons, weekends, and holidays, with high-use times and better-equipped facilities requiring higher fees. The objective being of this fee structure is to provide the public options that are affordable, while attempting to compensate for the \$15 million budget reduction which State Parks must do if it is to sustain further cuts.

Director Coleman noted that a hiring freeze had now been in effect for approximately two-and-a-half years, and that the net effect of the hiring freeze was the loss of approximately 290 staff positions – 200 as a direct result of the freeze and 90 that had to be cut with budget reductions (approximately \$20 million). The Director noted that these lost positions particularly affect administration and maintenance at parks, and that these were positions that would not be filled. Director Coleman explained that when a staff member retires under these circumstances, that person's position remains vacant; after six months the position is eliminated. This means that as staff members retire, the services provided by those positions are basically lost, making it particularly difficult to maintain parks.

Deferred Maintenance – Director Coleman noted that State Parks’ deferred maintenance backlog continues to grow. When last reported, there was a \$600 million backlog in deferred maintenance. That amount has risen to \$827 million, which translates into about 7,000 projects that are going undone. This presents a great challenge to State Parks, which must endeavor to maintain the quality and integrity of the State Park System under these conditions. Director Coleman added that unfunding maintenance over time means that facilities begin to deteriorate, and that this is a challenge that State Parks is going to have to keep working through in these difficult fiscal times.

Natural Disasters – Director Coleman stated that several natural disasters had besieged State Parks since she last addressed the Commission. The worst of these were several large and destructive wildfires. The October 2003 “Canoe Fire” in Humboldt County caused the loss of approximately 11,000 acres of forest, but as no structures were lost, this fire wasn’t particularly bad for State Parks, and actually contributes to a healthy ecosystem. Director Coleman noted that other property owners did suffer great losses in this fire. However, the “Cedar Fire,” in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, devastated approximately 26,000 acres in San Diego County, about 90% of the park. Only about 300 acres of the park remained untouched by fire. This was a great loss for State Parks. Fire destroyed 27 structures, including the historic Dyer House and other historic buildings, camp restrooms, storage buildings, and homes. The department estimates it will cost \$16-\$20 million to recover. Director Coleman noted that while these losses were great, one of the park campgrounds is still usable, and the children’s education camp is still in service. State Parks plans to use the park as a living laboratory to interpret how an ecosystem recovers from fire. At Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area in San Bernardino County, State Parks lost about 1,000 acres to fire, which included campgrounds, restrooms, and seven historic buildings. Several staff members also lost their homes to these fires. Related to this loss, Director Coleman recognized what she described as a miracle provided by the California State Parks Foundation. The Foundation created and is administering a fundraising campaign that has so far raised over \$161,000.00 to be made available to the staff members who lost their homes to the fires. State Parks estimates that the total damage for all parks hit by fire is about \$24 million. She also noted that State Parks is applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to assist with fire recovery.

Director Coleman reported that an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit the Cambria area in San Luis Obispo County on December 22nd. The epicenter was very near Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, known as Hearst Castle. Director Coleman reported that San Simeon’s architect Julia Morgan had relied on lessons learned with the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to design the castle, the result being that there had been absolutely no structural damage whatsoever at Hearst Castle. The Director reported that only two artifacts were damaged, a testament to the proactive efforts of the State Parks’ cultural staff who are custodians of many millions of dollars worth of artifacts. Director Coleman also noted that there was devastating damage in the nearby city of Paso Robles. La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in Santa Barbara County also suffered some damage in this same earthquake. The damage there is estimated to be between \$1.5 and \$3 million.

New Acquisitions for the State Park System – Director Coleman announced four significant acquisitions to the State Park System. First, a 1,700-acre parcel in the Sutter Buttes has been purchased. The area is known as Peace Valley, located in the middle portion of the Sutter Buttes in Sutter County. Director Coleman explained that the Sutter Buttes, known as the world’s smallest mountain range, had long been a natural resource icon and a subject for potential acquisition by California State Parks. The Director noted that State Parks hoped to acquire more property in this area to improve public access to these areas.

Cottle Ranch is a new acquisition in Santa Clara County. It’s a 300-acre historic farm surrounded by heavily urbanized San Jose. State Parks partnered with the County of Santa Clara to acquire this property: The owner gifted 153 acres to Santa Clara County and sold 136 acres to State Parks, but the cost was only \$5 million for 136 acres in downtown San Jose. Santa Clara County will develop

and operate a new historic park on this site in partnership with State Parks.

The Vallecitos Ranch acquisition is a 4,000-acre addition to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Director Coleman described this parcel as a terrific historic corridor with many archeological sites.

The fourth acquisition is a 17-acre parcel along the river adjacent to what is known as the Taylor Yard property near downtown Los Angeles. This is significant because it brings State Parks' presence at Taylor Yard to the Los Angeles River. This was the original intent of the Taylor acquisition, to create a river parkway. Director Coleman noted that State Parks will continue to work with current owners Union Pacific Corporation to purchase additional property in this area.

Other Major Projects – State Parks is working with the Native American community on a new Indian heritage center. Currently three sites are being considered, all in or near Sacramento. The goal of this project is to create a large-scale center that commemorates Indian heritage.

The Stanford Mansion in Sacramento is nearing the end of an \$8.7 million rehabilitation project. Work on the house is about 80% complete, to be followed by renovation of the landscaping and grounds. The parking lot next to the mansion will become a garden. When completed the mansion will serve as a protocol center for the administration and the legislature. Director Coleman reported that the State of California currently has no facility for hosting dignitaries and official events, and so the Stanford Mansion will fill a very important void by serving this function, while by agreement also remaining open for public tours 75% of the time.

At Crystal Cove State Park the contract has been awarded for rehabilitation of the historic district. The rehabilitation process is about to begin on 22 of the historic cottages. Director Coleman reported that a project to address water quality issues and sewer lines is also moving forward at Crystal Cove State Park.

Director Coleman concluded her report and asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Scherman asked if a completion date had been set for the Stanford Mansion project.

Director Coleman replied that work on the house would likely be completed by the end of March 2004, with work on the grounds continuing through summer 2004. She further noted that State Parks is partnering with the Stanford Foundation on this project, and that the Foundation has made available a considerable amount of private money for the rehabilitation. The Stanford Foundation is also buying drapes and carpeting for the home, and they will be restoring existing furnishings as well as purchasing reproductions, and searching for appropriate period antiques. State Parks anticipates the facility will be open to the public during the first part of 2005.

Commissioner Kautz asked Director Coleman about the fee structure and its relationship to individual state parks.

Director Coleman replied that the revenue from all fees are collected into a single fund, called the State Park and Rec. Fund. Funds are then allocated to districts each year through budgets. This means that parks that don't generate a lot of revenue are not penalized. All fees that are collected go into one large general fund, which is then augmented by tax dollars. Director Coleman added that the percentage of tax dollars received by State Parks is being continually cut back when the amounts received from the state General Fund are reduced. Fees have been raised to make up for this deficit.

Commissioner Tagami stated that he wished to make some comments and suggestions related to the Director's Report and State Parks' budgetary constraints. Commissioner Tagami stated that while some funds used to acquire land may be specific-purpose, there may exist an ability to consider alternatives, through tying up lands through options and/or looking at the use of installment sales which could serve as a tax benefit for sellers. This would allow State Parks to stretch the available funds further. Commissioner Tagami suggested that it could be possible to re-categorize some of

these funds to use them to cover deferred maintenance and operating expenses, which could help make up for the staff positions lost to the hiring freeze. He also suggested the possibility that State Parks' properties could be declared surplus if they did not promote linkages with adjacent properties or have critical relationships with the resources that State Parks is protecting at that location.

Commissioner Tagami also suggested that State Parks may be able to further utilize some of the license and concession agreements at underutilized facilities to stimulate and increase park usage.

The Commissioner suggested that long-term ground leases could be considered, with an understanding that the state would retain fee ownership of the land, but while allowing certain activities to improve the premises and promote activity that would provide other benefits for lessees.

Commissioner Tagami concluded that he would be happy to discuss these suggestions with the Director and staff at another time. Commissioner Tagami thanked Chair Hart for her time.

Chair Hart thanked Commissioner Tagami for his comments. Chair Hart then noted that the comments of the commissioners, as well as the fact that there was now a full Commission of nine members, led her to consider a proposal for the Commission to form committees to address some of these issues. Chair Hart suggested that a general policy committee should be established first, and she further noted that she wished to agendize a discussion on committees for the next meeting of the Commission.

Chair Hart thanked Director Coleman for her report.

CHAIR'S REPORT - RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

Chair Hart announced that the next agenda item would be the Chair's Report and the Commission's recognition of retiring State Parks employees. Chair Hart noted that there had recently been many retirements, and that as Director Coleman mentioned, this created many vacant staff positions for State Parks. She further noted that it was her hope that some method could be devised to address the hiring freeze. Chair Hart called on State Parks' Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope to acknowledge the individuals who entered retirement in the period from July 2003 to January 2004.

District Superintendent Tope stated that it was a great pleasure to acknowledge his colleagues who had retired. He noted that of the list of 47 retirees, the average time of service was approximately 25 years. District Superintendent Tope read the list of retirees:

Arturo Aleman	25 years, 7 months
Dale Andersen	23 years, 7 months
Valerie Apalatea	17 years, 3 months
Jeanette Barr	20 years, 11 months
Diane Beaumont-Rice	36 years, 5 months
Daniel Bell	26 years, 5 months
Claude Briscoe	25 years, 2 months
Michael Bradeen	28 years, 9 months
Carol Breakey	34 years
Craig Burke	30 years, 8 months
Gary Cave	37 years, 3 months
Thomas Cline	26 years, 3 months
Deborah Coles	22 years, 2 months
Mary Cota	22 years, 6 months

Mark Eikenberry	29 years, 6 months
Linda Fletcher	34 years, 9 months
Allen Fujii	39 years, 1 months
Elizabeth Gotelli	32 years, 7 months
Charles Grennell	27 years, 11 months
Lynn Gunner	21 years, 2 months
Linda Holloway	16 years, 11 months
Curtis Itogawa	26 years, 4 months
Gregory Kauffman	31 years, 3 months
Bruce Kennedy	41 years, 4 months
Miriam Kundert	29 years, 2 months
Harold Latta	26 years, 5 months
Bernice Lawrence	17 years, 1 months
Verna Leavitt	38 years
James Long	29 years, 4 months
Julian Lopez	21 years, 10 months
Vic Maris	27 years
Robert McGovern	25 years, 10 months
John Moore	30 years, 1 months
Jonathan Muench	26 years, 2 months
Daniel Murley	30 years, 7 months
Robert Murphy	30 years
Barbara O'Connor	40 years, 5 months
Gregory Picard	28 years, 11 months
Andrew Scotti	19 years, 5 months
Dave Sherrill	23 years, 7 months
Robert Soto	28 years, 1 months
Michael Stalder	26 years, 7 months
Sandra Talbert	1 year, 11 months
Johnnie Sue Taveras	31 years, 8 months
Osborne West Jr.	19 years, 3 months
Michael Whitehead	26 years, 5 months
Gregorio Yanez	12 years, 6 months

District Superintendent Tope then announced that Don Monahan, his second in command at the Orange Coast District, had recently been promoted to northern California, where he will serve as Superintendent of State Parks' Diablo Vista District. Superintendent Tope noted that he and his staff were sorry to see Don leave, but that he knew Diablo Vista was getting an excellent superintendent.

Chair Hart thanked District Superintendent Tope and noted that as her home was near State Parks' Diablo Vista District, she was especially happy to hear that Don Monahan would be serving as Superintendent, and that she looked forward to working with him. Chair Hart further noted that the Commission wished to acknowledge and thank each of the retiring staff members who had contributed so much to state parks, and she wished each of them well in their future endeavors.

APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL REDWOOD GROVES

Chair Hart asked Commissioner Paul Witt to read the Memorial Groves as requested by Save-the-Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund.

Commissioner Witt thanked Chair Hart, and noted that before he read the list of Memorial Groves, he also wished to express his thanks to those who had retired from State Parks for their extraordinary service. Commissioner Witt noted that through the many times in which State Parks has been underfunded it has been the work and caring of staff members like these that allowed the State Park System to endure. He also noted that with these retirements a lot of experience had been lost, and that he believed it was incumbent upon those present to find a way to make up for this loss. Commissioner Witt then read the following requests:

As Requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

The Lord Family Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Thurston Womack and Charlotte Cranmer, donors

Maggie's Grove in Navarro River Redwoods State Park
Bill Thaxton, donor

Lothar Kolbig Grove in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Estate of Lothar Kolbig, donor

JCRD Harris Family Grove in Limekiln State Park
Joyce Harris, donor

As Requested by Sempervirens Fund:

Lisin Family Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Al and Pat Lisin, donors

Daphne Dorney Redwood Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Bruce Sinift and Maureen Dorney, donors

Barbara and Jim Thomas Family Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Barbara Thomas, donor

Sierra Pacific Region Soroptimist Challenge Grove in Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Sierra Pacific Region, Soroptimist International, Governor Kathi Farr, donor

Dirk R. Down Memorial Grove in Castle Rock State Park
Pamela F. Down, Darrell E. Dukes, Gloria Down Kubo, Jane Luckhardt, Scott Flake, John Down Luckhardt, Janice M. Murray, Vincent Kubo, Dorothy Helzer, donors

Earl and Loretta Killian Woodland Grove in Castle Rock State Park
Waidy Lee and Earl A. Killian, donors

Commissioner Witt made a motion that the resolutions establishing these groves be approved by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tagami. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolutions establishing these memorial redwood groves.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Hart opened the public portion of the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Chair Hart stated that the Commission welcomes public input on all issues that come before it. She then requested that those who wish to address the Commission please complete a speaker registration form. Chair Hart explained that Commission protocols allow the Chair to limit speaking time to

three minutes for individuals and five minutes for those representing groups. She respectfully requested that speakers adhere to the Chair's authority in the matters of time limits and the conduct of the meeting.

Consideration of a change to current Commission Rules of Order regarding the time of year at which officers are elected

Chair Hart noted that as three new commissioners had been appointed since the Commission's last public meeting, and as several other commissioners could not be present at this meeting, particularly Commissioner de la Rocha who had expressed an interest in continuing in her role as Vice Chair, Chair Hart wished to propose that this item be removed from the agenda and moved to the next meeting or to a time that would allow the Commission to sufficiently discuss the item and decide whether or not to appoint a nominating committee to propose nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Tagami addressed the Chair on a question of personal privilege. Commissioner Tagami suggested that the language and rule change in agenda item 5A could be considered at this time, and then, pursuant to the Chair's suggestion, agenda item 5B, the election of commission officers, could be postponed until the next meeting. Commissioner Tagami made a motion to this effect.

Motion Commissioner Tagami, second Commissioner Witt. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the proposal that agenda item 5A, Consideration of a change to the Commission Rules of Order regarding the time of year at which officers are elected be considered at this time, and that the election of commission officers be postponed until adequate discussion had taken place.

Commissioner Scherman was recognized by Chair Hart. Commissioner Scherman acknowledged that she was new to the Commission, and stated that she was curious if there had in fact been a problem with past attendance of the commissioners as she had heard. Commissioner Scherman then asked if they should be concerned that this could affect the Commission's ability to discuss business related to the election of officers and hold elections in the future.

Chair Hart responded that most of the commissioners had been present at previous meetings and that she did not expect attendance to be a problem. Chair Hart explained that an emergency had kept Vice Chair de la Rocha from this meeting, and that she didn't feel it was appropriate to proceed under the circumstances.

Commissioner Tagami addressed the Chair on a point of order, noting that he had a comment on agenda item 5A. Commissioner Tagami noted that the Rules of Order utilize the terms chairman and vice-chairman. Commissioner Tagami suggested that in an effort to make such references gender-neutral, he wished to make a motion that the Commission Rules of Order be amended to use the terms chair and vice-chair.

Motion Commissioner Tagami, second Commissioner Kautz. The commissioners voted unanimously that the Commission Rules of Order be amended to use the terms chair and vice-chair rather than chairman and vice-chairman.

Consideration and action on the Department's recommendation for approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Doheny State Beach

Chair Hart explained that in addition to the materials received prior to the meeting, the Commission would now be conducted on a virtual tour of Doheny State Beach by Don Monahan, Chief Ranger. A presentation on the Doheny State Beach General Plan would also be conducted by Chief Ranger Monahan with assistance by Jerry McClees, Principal Planner with EDAW Incorporated.

Chief Ranger Monahan thanked Chair Hart, congratulated the new commissioners on their appointments, and welcomed the Commission to Dana Point. Chief Ranger Monahan then presented a three-

phase virtual tour, which included a slide show of Doheny State Beach that featured a historical look at the park, an examination of existing facilities at the park, and highlights of the issues and proposed solutions to those issues as presented in the general plan now under consideration by the Commission. Chief Ranger Monahan explained that the general plan was intended to provide a road map for the future of Doheny State Beach. He thanked the commissioners and formally requested their approval of the general plan. Chief Ranger Monahan concluded that he and the general plan team were present to respond to any questions the commissioners may have.

Chair Hart thanked Chief Ranger Monahan for his presentation and asked if there were any questions from the Commission at this time.

Commissioner Scherman asked if a dog park had been considered as part of the general plan.

Chief Ranger Monahan replied that a dog park was not included in the general plan. He noted that dogs were allowed in the camping and day use areas of Doheny State Beach, though not on the beach itself, as long as they were maintained on a six-foot leash. He further explained that dogs were allowed on the beach in specific areas of San Onofre State Beach, which is six miles to the south.

Commissioner Scherman asked what the plan proposed as a resolution to an issue that had been illustrated by one of the presentation slides, which showed a narrow sidewalk and pedestrians in close proximity to motor vehicles.

Chief Ranger Monahan replied that State Parks was working closely with CalTrans and the City of Dana Point on this issue and others that involve each of these agencies. He stated that the proposed resolution for this situation was to eliminate the competition between pedestrians and vehicles by placing a concrete K-rail six to eight feet over from the current location, in order to widen the road and improve the available options to install sidewalks and a separate bicycle path.

Commissioner Scherman asked about the references to water quality made during the presentation. The Commissioner asked if handouts that provided information on how campers could handle their waste could be provided to help educate park users about this problem.

Chief Ranger Monahan explained that a highly-visible RV dump station was available, free of charge, for use by park visitors, and that the problems appeared to be caused by users ignoring the rules rather than by a lack of education or facilities.

Commissioner Scherman stated that a pamphlet or flyer, in conjunction with a significant fine for illegal dumping, could make a difference. Commissioner Scherman noted that it appeared the water quality problem involved the City of Dana Point as well as park users' reluctance to adhere to the requirements of what can and can not be placed in waste water. She also noted that the problem included runoff from the storm drain system, and the large number of birds present in the area.

Chief Ranger Monahan clarified that the water quality problem was not solely an issue of the campers or the campground, but that rather it was a combination of occurrences upstream of the beach.

Chair Hart asked Chief Ranger Monahan for clarification regarding what changes the general plan proposed for the campsites at Doheny State Beach.

Chief Ranger Monahan explained that the general plan proposed only a small expansion of the park's campground. He explained that the campground would be expanded only as much as possible to allow more space between the campsites while not impacting the popular adjacent day-use area. He added that the general plan also proposed the eventual addition of RV hook-ups.

Chair Hart asked if an effort would be made to separate tent campers from the RV users.

The Chief Ranger replied that the reservation system allowed users to reserve specific campsites, so the park typically exhibits a mix of tent campers, RVs, etc. There was no proposal to change this.

Chair Hart stated that the RV hook-ups appeared to be an important addition to the park, and she asked if there was an anticipated date for installation of the hook-ups.

Chief Ranger Monahan replied that installation of the RV hook-ups would be contingent on the availability of funds, and that it could be some time before they were installed.

Chair Hart thanked Chief Ranger Monahan for his presentation. She then called the first registered speaker on this agenda item:

Karen Ezell/Kayak Fishing – My name is Karen Ezell. I'm a resident of Capistrano Beach, eight years. I'm a kayaker. I kayak fish. I'm currently going to be on the Outrigger Canoe Club in Dana Point. So I'm at the harbor a lot. I'm at Baby's Beach a lot. And we wrote some letters, and I guess I'm the spokesperson for the kayak fishing community, and they noticed that kayak fishing was not mentioned in the general plan. And it's a huge sport, that I don't know if you're aware it is growing like crazy. I also own a web site that sells kayak fishing equipment. And so it's growing like crazy. We did write some letters and we got it put in the general plan that it is mentioned. And I guess today I just wanted to mention that Doheny is a great alternative to launching from Baby's Beach; that's more in the harbor. If you look at the jetty coming out, a great place for a kayak fisherman to launch is right next to that jetty. There's very little waves. You can get right out into the ocean, switch around, go into the bait barge, and go out and fish, without having to launch at Baby's Beach where there's a lot of kayak rentals, kayakers that just want to use the harbor just for kayaking. And I guess I just wanted to come up today and just say that I think the general plan needs to take into consideration the growth of the sport and realize that it's going to just get bigger and bigger. Baby's Beach isn't going to be able to handle all the kayakers and make it a welcome area to be able to launch. In the plan it was mentioned that there is possibly a safety issue. And it was mentioned down at San Onofre a dog park where you can take your dogs is a designated kayaking area. So maybe down the road if we see the sport grow and more and more people use Doheny State Beach for kayak fishing, maybe have a posting of kayak launching near that one jetty. I don't take my children there anymore to swim because the water quality is not the best, especially at that end. And so I don't know in the summer if it gets too bogged down if it would be a real safety issue. But kayak fishermen are normally out very early in the morning and just coming straight in in the afternoon. It's also going to bring money to the campgrounds. We're having a tournament there in March. A lot of us are camping. A lot of money will be coming in for day use. That's all I wanted to mention. And to make sure that the Doheny plan is going to it keep in mind or maybe later add to it if the sport grows and more and more people want to launch at Doheny State Beach.

Chair Hart reminded Ms. Ezell that the general plan was an overview, a "general" plan for the park and that there would likely be future, more specific planning efforts during which Ms. Ezell could express her concerns for this growing sport. Chair Hart pointed out that before mountain biking became popular general plans didn't include considerations for this activity, but that they now do.

Karen Ezell – Well I know this is a general overview. But I thought I would speak anyway today because maybe everybody in all your different areas will probably be seeing the sport grow and then you will have heard about it and know that maybe in your areas of kayak fishermen that need to use the water areas of the state parks and be aware of it.

Chair Hart stated that she appreciated Ms. Ezell bringing this to everyone's attention. She further noted that she had recently learned that Commissioner Tagami is a kayaker and she herself is a kayaker.

Karen Ezell – Well, if you need fishing equipment... [laughter]

Don Porter/Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association – Chair Hart, members of the Commission. My name is Don Porter and I'm president of the Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association. We're a non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation and we have a 10-member board of directors, and we have

approximately 50-60 members, not only in this area, but also throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada, who come to Doheny to camp and so forth. We have participated in this plan from the beginning. We made an oral presentation I guess over a year ago when it started, and then participated again with letters from our board of directors as the planning process went through. And generally we approve of the plan as presented. In the beginning we proposed a new visitor's center in a different area not as congested as the one proposed, but I think this one will work out very fine. The association, as you saw in the slide presentation here, operates a gift store in the Visitor's Center, and we put about \$35,000.00 a year back into the park and in the Visitor's Center for water pumps, temperature gauges, including about \$1,000.00 a year for fish food. We're all volunteers. My particular personal history, in the 1950s I was a state park ranger at Doheny. In fact, when Ranger Monahan was talking about we still have some ancient structures around, I thought he was talking about me. [laughter]

Chair Hart asked Mr. Porter if he was the lifeguard at Doheny State Beach that was referred to by Chief Ranger Monahan during his presentation.

Don Porter – No, I wasn't the lifeguard. But I did know Pop Proctor (the lifeguard) when I was a ranger at Doheny and we gave him free camping on the beach in his camper to do that lifeguard work that Don talked about. But I'm retired from the U.S. Forest Service. Our association is quite proud of the volunteer work we do in the area and the money we make – we're all volunteers – we put the money right back in the park. We feel that – you've talked about the campground – we do feel that electrical hook-ups are necessary. We'd like to have them tomorrow, because as you mentioned, the conflict between RV generators and so forth is not too good. Just in passing and in closing, you mentioned about pollution, and since I'm also with the Chamber of Commerce in Dana Point, I'll let you know that the City of Dana Point is a leader in pollution control throughout California. We put filters in all our streets, our storm drains. The city has put more than \$3 million into diverting storm drain water into the sewer line from not going on the beach. So the city is real concerned about that and we're a leader in pollution control within California. With that, we have good relations with Superintendent Mike Tope, Chief Ranger Don Monahan, and of course, the one we work everyday with is the Supervising Ranger Jim Serpa back here, Jim? He's back there. So if there's any questions I'd be happy to answer them, but we're in support of the plan.

Sara Feldman/California State Parks Foundation – Good morning. I'm Sarah Feldman. I'm the Southern California Director for the California State Parks Foundation. And I'd like to thank all of the commissioners, Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Witt, for all of your work and welcome the new commissioners. The foundation is dedicated to protecting, and enhancing, and advocating for California State Parks, and we've supported numerous projects throughout the state, and in particular, at Doheny State Beach we've supported several projects there, including the butterfly gardens, the aquarium; we helped acquire a special wheelchair to facilitate access for disabled people, not just up to the sand, but onto the beach and even into the water; so that was a great purchase. We support the general plan for Doheny State Beach, and we're very pleased to see the planning process moving forward. And I just wanted to introduce myself, and again, welcome the new commissioners, and thank you again for all your hard work.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Feldman for her comments, and stated that she thought it was great that she could be present to meet the new commissioners. Chair Hart also noted that it had been a pleasure working with the California State Parks Foundation and with Sarah, and she remarked to the new commissioners that the foundation did many wonderful things for California State Parks.

Chair Hart noted that the last registered speaker, Nick Leary, wished to comment on Doheny and other subjects. She asked Mr. Leary to address all of his subjects now since he was the last speaker.

Nick Leary/Individual – Thank you very much. My name is Nick Leary. I'm from Duarte, California. I'm just over an hour's drive from here. My comments are directed at Doheny specifically, but

also at the State Park System in general. I've recently retired, and I was amazed when I looked at the list of state parks how few have hook-ups. And so that was my impetus in coming today. We were here in November. We opted to stay at San Clemente State Beach because there were hook-ups there and there were none here at Doheny. It was not as nice a campground. It was a little less accessible to the beach, where we wanted to go down to walk, but nonetheless, that was our option to stay there and then we came over here and visited. Regarding your issues about the Visitor's Center, in trying to access that there were all of about five parking spaces on the side of the road by the Visitor's Center. Your point about crossing four lanes of traffic is definitely a point to consider in relocation of that. But I am definitely in favor of the idea of hook-ups, not only here at Doheny, but in state parks in general, and your idea of a commission for policy, I think that would be a point to be presented to that commission once you establish that. This also, of course, would help the issue of pollution that you brought about. I saw a situation several weeks ago near Yuma in a Bureau of Land Management area where there were no hook-ups, no dump facilities, where somebody was draining their sewer into the ground. And so this underscores the point that hook-ups would help to address that issue as well. When you talked about separating tents from RVs, my original thought was yes that's a good idea. But if you get the hook-ups that would certainly address some of that also. Thank you.

Chair Hart thanked Mr. Leary for his comments. Chair Hart then stated that during the current difficult budget situation it was important for those who love parks to let their representatives know how important parks are to the people of this state, and to let them know how things like hook-ups make a difference in how much people are able to enjoy parks..

Chair Hart then asked if there were any questions from the commissioners.

Chair Hart recognized Commissioner Tagami:

Commissioner Tagami asked if the public hearing portion of the meeting would be formally closed before any discussion took place amongst the commissioners pertaining to the Doheny State Beach general plan. A brief discussion ensued during which Commissioner Tagami and Chair Hart discussed meeting procedure.

Chair Hart closed the public hearing portion of the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Commissioner Tagami stated that he had several comments related to the general plan and environmental impact report (EIR) for Doheny State Beach.

Commissioner Tagami noted that one of today's public speakers commented on kayaking, and he confirmed that he (the commissioner) was himself a kayaker. He noted that the plan was intended to be a "general" document, and that more specific policies would need to be adopted as required. Commissioner Tagami stated that the loading and unloading of kayaks from vehicles was an issue that needed to be addressed. He suggested that the development of a method by which an area for the loading and unloading of kayaks could be identified in the general plan, with the understanding that this could have a related impact on the circulation of the plan, could be developed.

Commissioner Tagami then made reference to the commissioners' tour of what remains of the historic Dyer House in the aftermath of last fall's fire at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The Commissioner suggested that regarding cultural resources, specifically historic resources, as stated in Goal CR1 under Section 3.3.2, Cultural Resources, of the Doheny State Beach Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR (page 3-6), that perhaps staff should consider a CR1.2 or CR1.3, involving the State Historic Preservation Office, to provide that the process of documenting historic resources should comply with the necessary standards to be listed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. By ensuring that listed resources meet these standards, State Parks' ability to seek remuneration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (FEMA) would be less a subject for debate.

Commissioner Tagami thanked everyone present for their efforts in producing the general plan.

Chair Hart recognized Commissioner Scherman:

Commissioner Scherman asked if once the general plan was adopted there would be an opportunity for the Commission to revisit issues it wished to address at some future time.

Chair Hart stated that she had approached staff with the possibility of the Commission meeting to discuss, subsequent to the adoption of a general plan, management plans or other issues that may arise during the implementation of a general plan. Chair Hart noted that this was something that could be discussed in conjunction with the establishment of Commission committees.

Chair Hart recognized Commissioner Tagami:

Commissioner Tagami stated that it was his understanding that under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), charter cities are required to update their general plans approximately every ten years. The Commissioner added that he did not know if this applied to parks. He asked if there was some regular schedule for reconsidering general plans once they had been adopted.

Chair Hart explained to that there was no such requirement for state parks, in that once a general plan is adopted it serves until there's a change proposed that requires an amendment to the plan.

Commissioner Scherman stated that she felt that the park Visitor's Center should be larger. The Commissioner related that in her previous experience with visitor centers she had often noticed they were inadequate, and that they could benefit from being larger or better-equipped.

Chair Hart explained that the general plan was a proposal, that it provided guidelines, and that the actual design and construction of the park visitor center would involve a further planning effort and opportunity for comment, a process in which Chair Hart suggested the Commission could be involved. Chair Hart further suggested that once a policy committee had been established by the Commission, discussions like this could take place within that committee. Chair Hart asked if Director Coleman or District Superintendent Tope could comment on this.

District Superintendent Tope replied that Chair Hart was correct in stating that once the general plan was adopted, it would provide general guidelines for the development of the park. He explained that once State Parks was ready to proceed with a specific project, that project would go through a CEQA process and a Coastal Commission permit process. District Superintendent Tope added that this meant there would be at least two more opportunities to comment on and contribute to the specific design, size, location, etc., of the project.

Director Coleman restated the commissioners' desire to be a part of that development process, and Chair Hart confirmed that this was correct. Director Coleman and Chair Hart discussed the fact that the Commission had not been a part of this process in the past, and agreed that such involvement in future projects should be made via a policy decision by the commissioners. Director Coleman also noted that the Commission should avoid setting up a system which slows down the capital development process because it is already a very lengthy procedure. Director Coleman added that updating the Commission on these types of projects would be a good idea, and that she could incorporate updates on the capital development program into her Director's report. The Director noted that there were a great many such projects currently underway.

Chair Hart stated that she was primarily concerned with projects related to general plans that had been approved by the current commissioners. An example would be the visitor center at Doheny State Beach. Once the plan is approved and funds available to implement it, the Commission could be consulted on subsequent development projects. Chair Hart named kayaking as another subject that might be addressed later that could benefit from Commission input.

Commissioner Tagami noted that there were likely a myriad number of projects, and that those mentioned were only examples. Commissioner Tagami stated that he wished to get back to the objective

of considering the general plan today, and he noted that while there were an unlimited number of areas that could be studied within a general plan, there were only a certain number of elements required by law; others were included voluntarily. The Commissioner noted that there is not a requirement under law to have a historic preservation element in a general plan, and that there may be viable reasons to not include such an element in every plan. He noted that this could be why a cultural resources designation is used instead of a preservation element in the general plan. Commissioner Tagami further noted that economic development is never considered under CEQA, but that he believed this was appropriate as economic development was an operational issue. The Commissioner suggested that the commissioners make an effort to gauge the volume of activities that are taking place and decide where the Commission's purview best fits. He suggested that once the Commission had discussed the formation of committees, a discussion could then take place as to how to best utilize staff resources in support of these goals.

Chair Hart recognized Commissioner Scherman:

Commissioner Scherman stated that she did not expect an oral report on development projects at each meeting, but that a written report would suffice.

Chair Hart and Director Coleman concurred that a written report would be sufficient.

Chair Hart asked if there were any other questions or comments on this topic. Chair Hart then asked for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to approve the preliminary general plan and environmental impact report for Doheny State Beach. Motion Commissioner Scherman, second Commissioner Kautz. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the preliminary general plan and environmental impact report for Doheny State Beach.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects other than those listed on the agenda)

Chair Hart announced that the final agenda item was open public comment on items other than those already discussed. Chair Hart asked if there were any registered or unregistered speakers. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hart asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Commissioner Witt, second Commissioner Scherman. Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Coleman, Secretary