

Meeting of the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION

Radisson Hotel Newport Beach
4545 MacArthur Boulevard
Newport Beach, California

Minutes of the Meeting - Friday, February 21, 2003

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Joseph Cotchett
Raquelle de la Rocha
Caryl Hart, Chair
Clint Eastwood
Bobby Shriver (Participating via teleconference as permitted by Govt. Code Section 11123)
Paul Junger Witt (Participating via teleconference for a portion of the meeting)

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Berry, Deputy Director, Park Operations
Ruth Coleman, Acting Director
Mike Eaton, Supervising Ranger, Crystal Cove State Park
Bob Hare, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Ted Jackson, Chief, Southern Division
Ken Kramer, Supervising Lifeguard, Crystal Cove State Park
Tim La Franchi, Chief Council
Louis Nastro, Assistant to the State Park and Recreation Commission
Erin Saberi, Assistant Director
Roy Stearns, Deputy Director, Communications
Alan Tang, Project Lead, Crystal Cove General Plan Amendment
Mike Tope, District Superintendent, Orange Coast District

VISITORS REGISTERED/REPRESENTING

Irene Black/Individual
Meriam Brasello/Laguna Plein Air Painters
Dr. Laurel Breece/Laguna Beach City College Maritime Archaeology Program
Garry Brown/Orange County Coastkeeper
Elisabeth Brown/Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.
Laura Davick/Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove
Denny Freidenrich/El Morro Village
Dan Gee/Ocean Institute
Sandy Genis/Sierra Club/Individual
Dale Ghery/Individual
Anita Hampton/Laguna Plein Air Painters (LPAPA) and California Art Cub (CAC)
Harry Helling/Ocean Institute
Bruce Hostetter/Individual
Joan Irvine Smith/Crystal Cove Conservancy/Individual

Pam Johnson/Orange County Department of Education
Susan Jordan/California Coastal Protection Network
Mark Kloesterman/Laguna Beach Lifeguard Department
Sandra Lapham/Orange County Department of Education
Dan Lau/Orange County Department of Education
Ed Merrilees/Individual
Jeannette Merrilees/Save Crystal Cove
Sara Pashalides/Friends of the Newport Coast
Fern Pirkle/Friends of Newport Coast
Dave Rahn/Individual
Murray Rosenthal/Sierra Club Crystal Cove Task Force
Sue Schaffner/Hostelling International San Diego Council
Susan Smartt/California State Parks Foundation
Jean Stern/The Irvine Museum
James Turner/Newport Beach Marine Safety Officer's Association
Al Willinger/Individual

CALL TO ORDER

Legal notice having been given, the California State Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 9:48 a.m. by Chair Caryl Hart. Chair Hart introduced each of the commissioners present as well as the two Commissioners who were participating via teleconference. She also introduced Acting Director Ruth Coleman, Deputy Director of Park Operations Bill Berry, and Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2002 MEETING IN LOS ANGELES AND THE DECEMBER 6, 2002 MEETING IN BERKELEY

Chair Hart asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the October 12, 2002 meeting in Los Angeles or to those of the December 6, 2002 meeting in Berkeley. There being no changes, Chair Hart asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion Commissioner Cotchett, second Commissioner de la Rocha. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Hart called on Acting Director Ruth Coleman to present the Director's Report.

Budget – Acting Director Coleman reported that State Parks had instituted minor fee increases in January to offset upcoming budget cuts. She reported that for the next budget year, the Governor proposed to cut State Parks' general fund allocation by \$35 million. State Parks expects that \$20 million of this will be offset by the fee increase. State Parks is currently developing a reduction program to cut \$15 million out of the operating budget, which amounts to about 10% of the total operating budget. It is anticipated that about 90 positions will be eliminated, in addition to consolidating districts to save on rent and administrative costs. The Governor's direction has been to not to close any parks, so State Parks will be doing whatever it can to minimize reductions at the visitor-service level. Reductions are planned for the upper levels of the organization, at headquarters and the executive office. Though State Parks hopes to make these reductions invisible to the public, a 10% reduction in the operating budget is still a significant one. State Parks plans to take advantage of advances in information technology as well as consolidation of administrative activities to become more efficient and minimize the impact of these reductions to the public.

Contribution to California's economy – State Parks continues to promote and strengthen California's economy, and the number of visitors to state parks continues to increase. Studies indicate that State Park visitors spend about \$2.6 billion during their visits, and if spending in the local economies surrounding parks is included, this translates into about a \$6.6 billion contribution to California's economy.

An analysis conducted for State Parks by a private firm also concluded that about 100,000 jobs in California relate directly or indirectly to these visitors. Because the State Park System is so important to the economy of the state, the Governor has chosen to spare State Parks from more significant budget cuts.

Personnel Changes – Acting Director Coleman highlighted some major personnel changes that State Parks will be facing in the near future. Acting Director Coleman expressed her regrets that Chief Deputy Director of Administration Denzil Verardo, a veteran of more than thirty years with State Parks, would be retiring on May 1st. State Parks headquarters had also recently lost Volunteer Programs Manager Heather Fargo, who accepted a full-time position as Mayor of Sacramento.

Western Snowy Plover update – This bird is listed as an endangered species, and State Parks has made many changes in the past year to increase protection of the Plover. About twenty state parks have instituted new protection measures. These measures include fencing off areas, restricting some human activities, control of predators, prohibiting dogs in some areas, and increasing the enforcement of leash laws in other areas. The Plover's nesting season begins in mid-March and lasts through September, making this a very critical time for the bird. The bird's nests are little scoops in the sand right near the water, so it's not easy to see them and it's very easy for them to be disturbed. The Plover is a very sensitive species and its behavior is such that it can very easily interact with where people want to be. About one-fourth of the California coast is within State Parks jurisdiction. 416 Snowy Plover nests were identified on State Parks property last year and 45% of these nests were successful, which means that an egg was laid and that the egg hatched and the bird actually flew away. State Parks is playing a very significant part in the recovery of this species and takes this responsibility very seriously.

California Indian Cultural Center Museum – For approximately twenty years State Parks has been working on a California Indian museum and cultural center. State Parks hopes to see this project come to fruition in the near future. A task force has been formed pursuant to legislation that was signed by the Governor last year to begin planning for the creation of a new California Indian Cultural Center Museum. Six of the task force members are California Indians and the Director of State Parks serves as the Executive Secretary. The Davis administration has been a major supporter in the creation of this museum, which will serve as a central place for Indian people from throughout the state to celebrate and preserve their past. There have been several studies with regard to such a museum over the last twenty years, and there is now \$5 million available to start along with an additional \$5 million in bond funds proposed in the Governor's budget. This along with anticipated contributions from the private sector should provide a good start for the Indian center.

State Parks Reservation System – There has been a lot of coverage in the press related to reservations at Southern California beach campgrounds. There has been an enormous interest in these beach campsites for years, so this recent interest is not unusual. These campsites typically sell out seven months in advance, so there are always very high peak days for reservations. This year on February 1st, the first day reservations were available for the month of August, was the busiest reservation day State Parks has ever experienced. State Parks estimates that about a million telephone calls were placed to reservations contractor Reserve America on this day. Reserve America made 10,700 reservations on that one day, the most in State Parks history. The previous one-day record was 7,000 reser-

ventions. This illustrates the incredible desire the public has to camp in state parks, particularly on the coast. It also means that one's odds of getting a coastal campsite are very low. This illustrates how important it is for State Parks to continue to move forward with providing more of these types of services.

Acting Director Coleman concluded her report.

Chair Hart thanked Acting Director Coleman for her report.

RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES

Chair Hart announced that the next agenda item would be the Commission's recognition of the retirement of State Parks employees. Chair Hart asked Commissioner Joseph Cotchett to introduce this item. Commissioner Cotchett introduced Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope to read the list of retirees.

Superintendent Tope thanked Commissioner Cotchett, and read the retirement certificates for the following department employees:

Lynne Anderson	23 years 9 months
Paul Anderson	30 years 9 months
Robert Basura	31 years 2 months
Samuel Boone.....	23 years 1 month
James Burke.....	29 years 7 months
Antone Duncan	27 years 3 months
Richard French Jr.	24 years 2 months
Pedro Gomez	25 years 2 months
Joseph Hardcastle	30 years
Douglas Healey	25 years 6 months
Stephen Johnson	28 years 8 months
Jerome Klopotek.....	38 years 7 months
Donald Lakatos.....	28 years 4 months
Gordon McDaniel.....	27 years 3 months
Michael McComas.....	29 years 1 month
John Melvin	30 years 3 months
Jerry Mize	5 years 2 months
Thomas Morgan.....	20 years 1 month
Marilyn Olson-Petersen.....	32 years 3 months
Peter Orzalli.....	32 years 6 months
Paula Pennington.....	30 years 5 months
Kay Robinson	31 years 5 months
Frances Sargent	20 years 3 months
Stuart Stinson.....	31 years 3 months
Christopher Stokes.....	32 years
Steven Treanor.....	29 years 10 months

Superintendent Tope noted that in the Orange Coast District, Don Ito was also retiring after 30 years of service.

Commissioner Cotchett commented about how extraordinary it was that the majority of these employees had served almost thirty years, and he noted that this type of longevity is typically unheard of in state government. Commissioner Cotchett explained that no other department or agency of the state

has this number of people who stay for this long, and he asked (rhetorically) what this told people about State Parks staff and the people (the rangers) that “wear the hats.” He stated that the people whose names were read are the most dedicated park people in the entire country. Commissioner Cotchett further explained that although state park rangers are peace officers, they work at wages that are considerably less than those earned by police officers in most communities. Commissioner Cotchett stated that this further underscored the dedication represented by these thirty-year careers. Commissioner Cotchett thanked all State Parks employees for their dedication.

Chair Hart thanked Commissioner Cotchett for his comments, and reiterated that it was phenomenal what these employees had done for the state. She further thanked the retiring employees for their extraordinary service.

APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL REDWOOD GROVES

Chair Hart asked Commissioner de la Rocha to read the Memorial Groves as requested by Save the Redwood League.

Commissioner De la Rocha made a motion that the Commission adopt the resolution approving the establishment of the following Memorial Groves.

As requested by Save-the-Redwoods League:

Kenton S. Marlin Family Grove in Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area
Francis J. Marlon, donor

Patsy Sears and Hugh Roberts Family Memorial Grove in Limekiln State Park
Mr. Hugh Roberts, donor

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cotchett. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution establishing these memorial redwood groves.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Hart opened the public portion of the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Chair Hart stated that the Commission welcomes public input on issues that come before it. She then requested that those who wish to address the Commission voluntarily complete a speaker registration form. Chair Hart explained that the Commission’s rules of order allow the Chair to limit speaking time to three minutes for individuals and five minutes for those representing groups. She further explained that while there was not a clock limiting speaker’s time, in the interest of everyone’s schedule it would be appreciated if speakers would limit their comments.

Concurrence on the Director’s reappointment of Tracy Kahn and Claire Peters-Smith to the Board of Directors of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation

Chair Hart asked State Parks staff if there was anything to be added to the Director’s recommendation to reappoint Tracy Kahn and Claire Peters-Smith to the Board of Directors of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation. There were none. Chair Hart then asked if there any registered public speakers on this agenda item. There were none.

Chair Hart then asked for a motion approving the resolution to confirm that the Commission concurs on the Director’s reappointment of Tracy Kahn and Claire Peters-Smith to the Board of Directors of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation.

Motion Commissioner de la Rocha, second Commissioner Eastwood. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution to confirm that the Commission concurs on the Director's re-appointment of Tracy Kahn and Claire Peters-Smith to the Board of Directors of the California Citrus State Historic Park Non-Profit Management Corporation.

**Consideration and action on the
Department's recommendation for approval of the
General Plan Amendment for Crystal Cove State Park as contained in the
Crystal Cove Historic District Preservation and Public Use Plan and
Environmental Impact Report**

Chair Hart introduced this agenda item, explaining that in addition to the materials the Commission received prior to the meeting and during the previous day's on-site briefing, the Commission would now hear a presentation on this agenda item prepared by State Parks staff. Chair Hart introduced State Parks Orange Coast District Superintendent Mike Tope.

Superintendent Tope thanked Chair Hart and all of the staff and community members who participated in two-year process of developing the General Plan Amendment. Superintendent Tope stated that the plan represented thousands of hours of staff time and community involvement. He then introduced the members of the planning team (not all were present), including Tina Robinson, Dave Prior, Rich Rozzelle, Bob Hare, and Jim Newland. Superintendent Tope then introduced Project Lead Alan Tang to make a slide presentation on the plan.

Alan Tang presented a slide show detailing the proposed General Plan Amendment. The presentation included a history of conservation efforts in the area, an explanation of the various resources within the park, and the issues that were raised during the planning process. The presentation also described the major areas of the park property and the proposals for each area. Mr. Tang explained that the proposed plan was the result of a collaborative process between State Parks, the local community, and various stakeholder groups.

Mr. Tang explained that the plan was the culmination of two years of intensive planning and public involvement, and that plans for the Crystal Cove Historic District had been in development for twenty years. He presented a summary of the resulting Preservation and Public Use Plan (PPUP). Mr. Tang explained that the General Plan Amendment permitted limited new development in the Historic District and the Los Trancos area of the park beyond what was approved in the original 1982 general plan. The presentation illustrated the history and major proposals of the plan, as well as the relationship of the various programs proposed for the Historic District. Mr. Tang's presentation emphasized the operational flexibility of the plan, especially as it pertained to the historic cottages.

Chair Hart thanked Mr. Tang and all of those who contributed to the plan. Chair Hart stated that this was a balanced plan that appeared to have widespread approval amongst its constituents. Chair Hart asked if the commissioners had any questions for Mr. Tang or other staff before she began calling speakers for public comment. There were none. Chair Hart then began calling the registered speakers.

Mark Kloesterman/Laguna Beach Lifeguard Department – Good morning Commissioners. My name is Mark Kloesterman and I moved to Laguna Beach in 1964, and over the last thirty-nine years my family, friends, and myself have utilized and enjoyed the beaches at Crystal Cove Park. I'm here this morning to voice my support for the plan and I feel it's crucial that we provide the infrastructure and the resources to the park so our park employees can be successful and effective and efficient in providing us with the services and emergency response that's necessary. Aside being a long-term beach-goer to Crystal Cove Park, I've been a professional ocean lifeguard for twenty-nine years and I'm currently the Chief of Marine Safety for the City of Laguna Beach. A lifeguard's primary respon-

sibilities and duties are rescue, medical assistance, prevention, enforcement, the protection of the marine life, and public education. It will not cut it if a child is drowning and if an adult has a heart attack and needs a defibrillator and our trained professional are tucked away in the park across the street somewhere with the equipment that they need. It's paramount to public safety and I feel it's imperative to the park's success that we provide this infrastructure and resources so the park employees can be successful. Thank you.

Chair Hart thanked Mr. Kloesterman for his work as a lifeguard.

James Turner/Newport Beach Marine Safety Officer's Association – My name is Jim Turner. I've been a lifeguard with the City of Newport Beach for twenty-nine years and a Newport Coast resident for the last nine. I'm here to voice my support for an aquatic support facility on the beach at Crystal Cove. As Crystal Cove Beach use increases over the next decade, an aquatic support facility will be vital in providing observation, support, and immediate response to beach emergencies. Along the Southern California coast government agencies have all placed lifeguard facilities on the water. This allows staff the ability to see increased crowd, surf, and rip current conditions and respond by redirecting personnel or calling in additional staff. Newport Beach lifeguards benefit daily from the location of their facility on the beach observing rescue situations and directing patrol vehicles for response. We feel strong enough about this concept that we are working to create a similar lifeguard substation at Corona del Mar. I think the former City Planners for their wisdom in moving our lifeguard facility onto the beach nearly forty years ago. I urge you to designate cottage 22 at Crystal Cove as an aquatic support facility to provide observation, dispatch, and rapid response capabilities to State Park lifeguards at Crystal Cove. Thank you.

Al Willinger/Individual – Good morning Commissioners. I want to thank staff for all the work they've done in preparing the document and the slide show that you've just seen. As a bit of a background, I was a resident at Crystal Cove for approximately thirty years. I presently live in Newport Coast. I'm President of the homeowner's association, Oceanridge, in Newport Coast. I've been very active as a member of the Newport Coast Advisory Committee dealing with relations with the City of Newport Beach. My concern is focused on one issue and one issue only: the use of staff housing at the Crystal Cove park site. There are approximately forty-six cottages. It's my understanding that of the forty-six, approximately six or seven cannot be used because they're beyond repair. That reduces the inventory to approximately forty, more or less. Under the present plan, the proposed staff housing would use five of those, or a high percentage, and if you consider what the free enterprise system would do if they set aside 10 or 15% of their units whether it be a hotel or resort for staff housing, that entity would be bankrupt and bankrupt very shortly. We think the Commissioners have a fiscal responsibility considering the state of our fiscal situation statewide to avoid the conversion of a public asset to private housing for staff. I have to assume that staff is paid a fair wage and I think that there would be a real or a perceived conception that there would be a misuse of public funds or perhaps even a gift of public funds if the staff housing was maintained. It's my opinion that once these homes and cottages are restored, they would have a market rate value of approximately \$5,000 a month at the beach. If you convert that, we're talking about \$4-\$5-\$600,000 per year of value being converted to staff housing. I'd like the Commissioners to seriously consider that aspect of it. I'm in favor of all other proposed uses of the Cove. Thank you very much.

Fern Pirkle/Friends of Newport Coast – Good morning Madam Chairman and Commissioners. You can hardly imagine what a joyous occasion this is for the Friends of Newport Coast who have been working for about twenty-four years first to bring about the establishment of Crystal Cove State Park and then to open it all to the public. Parks personnel are to be commended for the plan that they produced. They did a very good job; however we do feel that it can be improved upon. Generally, we believe that there are too many cottages provided for park personnel and too many activities that will be

going on in the Hollow area creating a busy bustling atmosphere rather than a more serene and laid back atmosphere that we believe would be preferable. To give you more details on what our feelings of our group is, Sarah Pashalides, who's our consultant, will present more details. Thank you.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Pirkle for her contributions to the plan and to Crystal Cove State Park.

Sara Pashalides/Friends of the Newport Coast – Good morning Madam Chair and members of the Commission. While the Friends supports this, the foundation and the ideals of the Crystal Cove preservation plan for providing public use and enjoyment of the area, preserving the historic elements and maintaining the spirit of place, we do have some concerns with some of the details of the implementation of this plan. We're concerned that what has drawn us all to want to preserve this area is the very thing that may help us to lose it. And we want to make sure that the essence of Crystal Cove is maintained. Many of the great parks here in the State of California limit the use of vehicles within the more sensitive areas of their parks. In fact, not long ago you could drive a car through a redwood tree. Fortunately, we have learned from that and in many areas we prohibit the use of vehicles near these redwood groves as well as other special places, as well as limit the public use and access. We hope that these mistakes would not be made here in the quiet solitude and sense of place would be maintained here. Several of you have experienced the history and beauty and the special qualities of Crystal Cove. While walking through the Hollow area or down the meandering pathways or across the boardwalks, I'm sure you felt the sense of place that is unique to Crystal Cove. Please add some limitations to the plan that is before you today so that the quaint charm and character of Crystal Cove is maintained for others to experience and enjoy as a retreat from urban life just like it was thirty years ago. The EIR that is before you today includes several mitigation measures or conditions that your staff has recommended be included and attached to this project to ensure that the special characteristics of Crystal Cove are maintained. We support those conditions and we recommend these two additional conditions be included as part of this project in order to maintain the character of Crystal Cove: The first deals with the operations plan which your staff is intending to prepare, that includes restrictions to prohibit the use of vehicles within the Hollow area, and that's the central courtyard area right by where it narrows down and it becomes very special. That you limit the hours of vehicle operation in that area between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., that they be precluded also between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., with the exception of emergency vehicles and golf cart-type people-mover systems. In this manner, the character of the area can be maintained. In addition, at all times overnight guests shall be prohibited from driving private vehicles through the Hollow area. And the second condition relates to the operations plan providing for a minimum of 75% of the rehabilitated cottages to be available for public use as overnight accommodations. I might conclude by saying Crystal Cove was historically a residential community and we believe that by maintaining the overnight accommodations as the majority of public use that that character and quaintness of Crystal Cove will be preserved. Thank you again for your time and careful consideration of this.

Sue Schaffner/Hostelling International San Diego Council – Thank you Madam Chair and Commissioners. My name is Sue Schaffner. I'm the Executive Director of Hostelling International, American Youth Hostel, San Diego Council. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My predecessor, Linda Sterns, has appeared before you several times in the past and I continue in that tradition. This plan amendment for the Crystal Cove State Park includes a comprehensive plan for overnight accommodations and hostel-style accommodations. Hostels have been a part of the plan for twenty years. We would like to have the Commission consider the involvement of Hostel International, American Youth Hostels, in the continued use dialogue of the accommodations. Hostel International, American Youth Hostel, a 501C3 non-profit, has a long and successful relationship with State and National Parks. Operating and managing hostels on public properties, including Redwood National Park, Fort Mason of San Francisco, and Pigeon Point Lighthouse. With our extensive network

of hostels in the U.S. and abroad and our history in overnight accommodations, we are ready to assist Crystal Cove State Park in the transition into the low-cost accommodation sector. We'd strongly encourage the Commission to include a relationship with Hostel International, American Youth Hostels in your plan. Thank you very much.

Chair Hart commented that Ms. Schaffner's comments made a lot of sense.

Harry Helling/Ocean Institute – Good morning Commissioners. My name is Harry Helling. I'm currently the Vice-President of the Ocean Institute, in charge of research and education. I've served for eighteen years in that capacity. In addition, I serve as the Director of the Dana Point Marine Life Refuge and work on the Marine Life Refuge Committee to increase research, education, and enforcement for all of Orange County's seven marine life refuges. I'm here today to speak principally on educational and interpretative programs. And three quick points I'd like to make: One is that our tide pools in Orange County, and those in Crystal Cove included, are all really under siege. Impacted by the over-use by visitors and after more than a decade of involvement in this issue, it's clear that the long-term preservation of our tide pools will depend on an informed and caring public. The interpretative and education program at Crystal Cove is critical to the survival of the delicate tidal ecosystem in the park. Dedication of some of the cottages and support of increased educational programming is a step toward improved conservation. As the park supports increased access to protect it in sensitive environments like the tide pools, it must make a stronger effort to provide effective education and interpretation in the name of conservation. Second, in my career I've seen far too many organizations forget to prioritize education or really not include it in the broadest plans. I've got lots of great examples here. I'll cut down talk here and just say that the point is that education is important sooner than later. Organizations recognize or realize that they need facilities to support the effort. So, it's completely appropriate that the cottages that are set aside to do that are kept intact and I commend the planners for identifying the importance of education and addressing it forthright in the plan. Finally, I would commend the vision to bring forth the acceptability of the underwater park. I've watched for a number of years as the talented interpretative staff has tried to take something that's really not very accessible and make it accessible to the park. I would commend the use of all of the educational programs, and the underwater broadcast system that is really forward-thinking and will help to distinguish the park, help to inform our public, and help to protect the sensitive environment. Thank you very much.

Bruce Hostetter/Individual – Hello Commissioners, my name is Bruce Hostetter. I live in Fullerton. I consider myself a friend of the Historic District. I'm here to lend my support to the general plan amendment. I think it's worthy of your approval. I have observed the planning process, participated in it, made comments, read responses to comments, and I would in particular like to reinforce one provision that has to do with the mix of uses. The mix of uses as it currently exists is one that provides both for long-term users, who are based on programs, concessionaires, and park residents, as well as transient users, and I think that that balance, having the long-term users, provides continuity that helps to establish commitment and stewardship to the facility. The second point that I would like to make has to do with something that has to do more with the Coastal Commission. There is a lack of shoreline protection that's a part of this plan, or not a part of this plan. Some of the cottages that you looked at as you walked along the boardwalk yesterday are actually in threat of severe storm and wave upbrush. And the reason that there's no provision for any type of coastal armory or shoreline protection is because when this Department went before the Coastal Commission in November of 2001, the Coastal Commission had a special condition, Special Condition No. 2, which said you will waive your right to protect these structures. And further, if there's ever any kind of threat to these structures, you shall demolish these structures. The Parks Department, I believe, is very much interested in protecting these structures as I'm sure you are. Right now there's a constraint and the constraint has to do with the fact that the Coastal Commission is not going to allow any kind of plan that provides protection for those

cottages. I'd like to inform you of this in case you're not aware. I'd like to simply raise the issue and say I think that you as a policy board may want to take a look at policies of your own to see if there's policies and interests that have to do with protection of vulnerable shoreline cottages that could have some protection if you were willing to consider whether or not policies of your own could somehow counter-balance the policies of the Coastal Commission. Anyway, I wanted to make you aware of this issue and put it in your hands to deal with it. Thank you very much.

Susan Smartt/California State Parks Foundation – Thank you and good morning. I'm Susan Smart, President of the California State Parks Foundation, and as the statewide organization that works on behalf of State Parks, we're here to thank you today, and particularly the park staff for listening to the public two years ago when it was obvious that the luxury resort hotel was not a good plan for Crystal Cove, and the Department turned it around and has reached out to the public and has worked so hard and so well with them to come up with what we feel is a very good balanced plan. We often know from the statewide basis where the hotspots are in the state park system because we hear from our members and this has been one of the most contentious areas for our membership. We've had numerous letters and e-mails, and as the planning process has moved along, that has disappeared. So, that says to me something is working quite well. So, we urge you to approve the general plan amendment and we're very happy to be here today after the torturous route this has taken to see that it's actually moving forward. Thank you very much.

Garry Brown/Orange County Coastkeeper – Good morning. My name is Garry Brown, I'm founder and Executive Director of the Orange County Coastkeeper. We thank you for the opportunity to address you today and, and we feel that we're stakeholders in what happens at Crystal Cove. We spent a couple years and a lot of money ensuring that the development across the street would not degrade, but protect the waters of Crystal Cove which is a highly sensitive area. It's an area of special biological significance and, after that period, we are assured that whatever happens across the street, that water is going to be protected. We have invested a lot of time in a restoration project. We are currently beginning the second year of a five-year program to reforest kelp on the reefs at Crystal Cove. We hold leases of those reefs with our State Lands Commission and are permitted through seven different agencies for that project. And so it's an ongoing project that we're investing considerable money in to try to bring back and restore the habitats under water. We're also involved with the marine life protected area of Fish and Game and I serve on the committee of fifteen that will be making recommendations from Point (unclear) to the Mexican border on marine life protected areas and certainly Crystal Cove is an area that we're working to eventually have listed as a marine life protected area. And so we're very involved with Crystal Cove. We certainly support the general plan amendment here today and we support the staff recommendation. It's a product of some great debates that have gone on at Orange County. I want to certainly acknowledge the staff that you have in Orange County. There's been, as I say, some great debates, and they have fostered, they have given everybody an ample opportunity, they've listened to everybody. Everybody's had an equal chance and the product today is as much a credit to the public that participated as it is your staff that allowed the process. So, I think they should be commended, each and every one of them. We have some concerns about water quality as these specific plans are developed and go forward. We obviously want to make sure water quality is ensured and want to see more work with that area. I won't repeat what Harry Helling said from the Ocean Institute. With this plan obviously there's an increased usage from the historic usage and we want to make sure that there's ample education programs, ample measures are taken to try to protect the tidal pools for a lot more use than what they've had. And certainly with the education but we are confident that with the staff and the dedication and passion they have to protect Crystal Cove, we feel confident in supporting this because we know these things will be addressed. Thank you very much.

Chair Hart announced that she would like to have one more speaker and then take a short break.

Susan Jordan/California Coastal Protection Network – I thought we were going to go on a little bit of a different order, but that's okay. I can get up now. I first came to Crystal Cove probably about five years ago. Probably a little bit more than that, and as I drove up from Laguna, I went past a number of gated communities. One of the reasons we have the Coastal Act is because of the over-development in certain Southern California cities that really made the residents of California decide that they were going to place some restrictions on how development proceeded. So, as I drove up, I got to Crystal Cove and I took a big breath of fresh air and I said this is just an amazing spot. But when I got to Crystal Cove and I tried to get to the beach, the only two or three access ways were very steep ramps that you had to walk down. The two level access ways, one at Crystal Cove and one at El Morro were blocked from the public. And I knew right then and there that we had to fight to save Crystal Cove. When we first started dealing with the resort and Rusty Areias had taken over as Director, he thought that he had inherited something that he really couldn't stop. And it was up to the people of this community and groups statewide to tell State Parks that this just could not go forward. So today is probably one of the most joyous days that I've experienced in statewide coastal protection in maximizing public access to the coast. I feel very comfortable with the plan that has been put together. I want to compliment all the local groups that have worked so hard to make it a reality. I want to compliment State Parks for being open and flexible, and willing to rethink something that was considered to be a done deal. So, I hope you approve this and I look forward to the first day when people can come to the park and actually stay over and experience something that really is truly extraordinary. Thank you.

Chair Hart called for a break in the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Chair Hart reconvened the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Chair Hart continued calling the registered speakers.

Denny Freidenrich/El Morro Village – Thank you. I'm here to echo many of the comments you've heard earlier this morning. As a thirty-three year resident of Orange County, I support the goals and the objectives of the plan for the Historic District and I too want to commend staff and community leaders for bringing us here this morning. Thank you.

Ed Merrilees/Individual – Good morning. My name's Ed Merrilees. I just would like to state that I believe full access to the cottages should be for the public primarily in the form of overnight stays. That should be the primary goal of the project. After much resistance, the tenants have left and I don't think they should be replaced by a group that has delegated authority to run special programs. I just think that the MOU that originally was entered into between the Coastal Commission and State Parks which originally called for, I believe, 132 units to be provided for low-cost affordable housing, which has a clause in it that can be reduced to 90 if there are not funds available or if they cannot be provided in the original amount or in any case not less than 65. But this shows how important it is that public overnight accommodations be provided in a maximum number. I also would like to comment on the use of the south beach road for staff and research uses. I think that south beach road is going to be a congested area, particularly in the time of emergencies where this lifeguard station will be called upon to go out in a hurry, or go from there to other parts of the park. And also if they engage in lifeguard training there. The congestion there just is totally incompatible with the serenity of the area, and the serene keeping of the park. I just worry about using that area which is the top notch part of the project for staff research uses, or program uses, is a misuse of the park. So I would once again like to stress the use of the cottages for overnight use. Thank you.

Elisabeth Brown/Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. – Good morning. I represent Laguna Greenbelt which has been working for thirty-five years in the local area. We're a natural resource preservation, public access to open space, and public education organization, and we're extremely pleased to be here and seeing where Crystal Cove Historic District is going. We would like to see as much as possible the return of natural processes and natural vegetation in the project and I think the best part of Mr. Tang's

presentation was his stress on the operational flexibility so that the use of the cottages will be sort of an adaptive management situation, and I think that's probably the key to resolving everybody's ideas about what should be where. Thank you.

Dale Ghere/Individual – Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I've been here for forty years, and watching this park has been really enjoyable to me. I would think being in your position today, to be at a place where a whole room full of people are happy that you're here should be a nice place for you to be in. We are really happy with your staff. We're happy with the processes that have been going on. The way that I look at this, we just got a big cake and we're just sort of pushing the frosting around on something that we're all really going to enjoy. I believe that one of these days there'll be a kid who says "Grandpa, remember when you're grandpa used to take you there?" I really look forward to this place being very enjoyable for many, many, many years. A couple of things in the report that I would like to emphasize: On page 24 it says the public has expressed a strong emphasis for overnight use. And I think you're beginning to hear that. There's been enough written, and there's been enough said here today, that that is a true statement. In response the staff wrote, on page 53, that although there may be changing needs over time, the commitment to overnight accommodations is a permanent commitment and is primary to the PPUP adaptive use program. That I would agree with fully. On page 22 the staff makes a statement that none of the working groups during the second public meeting proposed tenant occupancies. And that's a true statement. Nobody in any of the meetings that I have attended suggested that we have permanent tenants living there. In my opinion, this exclusion of tenants included both general public and park staff. Groups discussed the need of having park staff there for security purposes during the early phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2, but they were all pretty much committed to the fact that the number of cottages developed for park staff living or for total use should be reduced as the project comes to completion. I think the Sierra Club has a good statement and they're concerned about the number of cottages used for park operations, interpretation, and the CARE program. The proposed excessive development of amenities within the Crystal Cove Historic District is something that you really need to look at. And there have been many people who have abused the phrase "we can almost love this place to death." A lot of people. Alan Tang made a statement yesterday. He said this is really where people want to come. And I believe that's a true statement. I really encourage you to accept the plan. There's just two things that I would like to encourage you to begin to think about, today and over a long-term period of time. Increase the number of cottages that would be designated for overnight accommodations. I think by the time it's completed, five or ten years, however long it takes to get this whole thing completed, we should see something in excess of 70% of the cottages designated for overnight stays. I think that is, you guys going down and standing on the decks yesterday and walking around and looking at that area and just seeing how neat it is, it would be wonderful just to be able to look forward to once a year winning the lottery and getting to spend two or three or four nights there would be a wonderful experience. So, as many of those as you can generate, I encourage you to do. This spirit of place, or this calmness of place, I really honor that whole concept that your staff has come up with. So, I would like to encourage you and the staff to decrease the number of activities that go on in the Hollow region. Move more of the group activities to the bluff region or to the Los Trancos region and try to keep that core area as quiet as possible. You do those things and I think we're going to be real happy with this whole thing. Actually, I think we're going to be happy if I don't get a single one of the things that I asked for. I'm just looking forward to a really nice situation and I thank you and the staff for all that's happened over the past few years.

Dan Gee/Ocean Institute – I'm Dan Gee, President of the Ocean Institute, and I'm here just to reinforce our request that you make sure that the education plans are maintained in the general plan amendment. We are in favor of the general plan amendment. And I'd like to share with you some of the experiences we've had at the Ocean Institute. We just recently built a new facility as a result of

demand in Dana Point. The institute is about twenty-three years old. We are now educating over 100,000 students in marine science and marine history. Things that would be of interest, possibly not marine history, but certainly marine science at Crystal Cove. This all occurred as a result of demand. There is a huge demand for this type of education with our youngsters, and one of the things that really surprised us; we actually got caught not realizing the demand by our general public and our senior citizens. We opened a new facility just six months ago and the general public literally was knocking on the doors all day long asking for admittance to the facility and particularly the education program. We had not offered these types of programs in the past and we had to scramble very, very quickly in order to accommodate the real demand from our general public. So, I certainly encourage you to make sure that proper and appropriate educational programs are included. The institute is in a very unique location and we offer very unique programs. I think the similarity is that Crystal Cove clearly is a very, very unique location. It will have very, very unique facilities. The public will come and you need to make sure you provide unique educational opportunities. Thank you very much.

Jeannette Merrilees/Save Crystal Cove – As you’ve probably discovered by now, this is not a unanimous agreement on the changing of the general plan. And that’s what I want to address is the general plan because all of these little specific suggestions and ideas are wonderful, but what you’re here for today is to decide whether or not you should adopt a new general plan as opposed to the existing 1982 plan. So, I want to just mention a few contrasts between the existing plan that you’re presented with today and the 1982 plan. The original plan was the plan done shortly after the purchase in 1979. And as you know the purchase was the result of the voter approval of a bond in 1974. We waited a few years for a lawsuit to take place before the purchase could be completed and then the Parks Department moved very quickly to adopt a general plan for the park. The 1982 plan took the 46 units, and I’m calling them units because some people think that they really aren’t up to being called cottages and that they’re shacks, but, we like to call them units because that’s a derogatory, a not-so-nice term. But they are units. Some are larger than others and all but a few were to be for overnight families. I think the number of units for rangers and docent use was maybe five at the most. So, the plan recited that these were to be moderately priced for first families, secondly groups, and last of all hostels. Some of the funding for putting the Historic District in shape was provided by the original purchase price. But that disappeared quickly as the Parks Department was sued by tenants and trailer residents to stay. More funding came from the Coastal Commission when the Ritz Carlton was built down in South County. And the Ritz was going to have over 900 units, or maybe more than 1,000 units down there, but they did not want to provide low cost accommodations. And as my husband as said, they did require the developer there, which was AVCO, to provide one low cost accommodation for every three high priced hotel rooms. Now, that was units, it was not beds. So, that’s very important. On the third part of the development down there, the low cost housing requirement had been shifted from the main hotel to two different additions. And by the time it got to the third one, they still didn’t want to put low cost housing in that hotel area so they approached the Coastal Commission and the requirement was shifted to in lieu funds and they provided a million dollars to put what was supposed to be 132 units. Now, if you look at what the Coastal Commission required the funds to be used for, if you look at the ’82 plan, you see that who’s really losing here is the ordinary families of California. And who’s gaining? The painters, the educators, the lifeguards, and of course the staff. Now, the ones I resent the least of all are the staff. We need to have them there where they need to teach people how to appreciate the natural values there. But my input which wasn’t reflected in your presentation this morning was that these units should be rehabilitated which was what the original plan called for. There are many historical treatments that can be used to preserve a historic district. And as a matter of fact, there is not a single unit in this area that is designated a historic building. It’s a historic district. And all you have to preserve is the arrangement of the cottages within the district. But this plan is going to restore. Now, restore is a word of art in historic preservation. So, it’s a different

concept that this general plan amendment is promoting. I think you have to look at who loses in this new plan and who benefits. We don't need the sirens from the lifeguards to be breaking the tranquility of whoever is down there. And as far as the education goes, I'm a school teacher and the education has to take place in the quiet and order of a classroom. It's very difficult for a bus load of fifty children with parents who can't even control them to let them lose on the tide pools or the beach because when they get to the beach, they want to run, they want to pick everything up, they want to poke. This has to be done. Now, when the lawyers in Orange County wanted legal education in the schools, what they did was they formed a curriculum and they promoted the curriculum in the schools by having volunteers go the classroom, and present units like I did one on vandalism, and explain to the children what the laws were, how they could get in trouble. We need that kind of education, but it's better done in the classroom before you get down to the tide pools. There's no need to provide room for fifty children at once when it's obvious that education requires smaller class sizes. So, we have institutions of education. The Ocean Institute is an institute of education. Let's use that to educate the children. When they come to Crystal Cove, let's have them come with their grandparents or their parents and have the experience with the park staff's guidance of what it was like for the people who lived there for so many years and enjoyed that experience. That's why we bought the park in 1974. That's why we approved the general plan of 1982. And when I initiated the opposition to the resort in 1997, and I did initiate it, together with the Sierra Club, we fought this for three years and finally in the big meeting we won the battle and then we lost the planning war. We lost the peace. So, consider that please. We are outnumbered, we are outspent, but we stand for the general public having what they voted for and what they planned for, and that is the right to occupy the cottage for a vacation, a short one in Crystal Cove. Thanks.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Merrilees for the work she'd done at Crystal Cove.

Chair Hart reminded those present that there were still a number of speakers to hear and that some people may not be able to stay for an overly long meeting. She reminded the speakers to please try to keep their statements to three minutes and thanked them for their cooperation.

Sandy Genis/Sierra Club/Individual – My name is Sandra Genis. I am a member of the Sierra Club's Crystal Cove Task Force and I actually expected to be speaking after Murray. Hopefully it will coordinate okay. I'm really happy to see where we're at today and it's been a long time. When I was in school still, I wrote a paper. You had to do a controversial planning project in your local area and this was it. It had already been going on for years and as you can see I have gray hair, so this has been a long process. But one of the things that we did learn in our planning classes and so forth is that you really need to do comprehensive planning and I'm delighted to see where we're at. However, it is somewhat disappointing that the planning for the park has been fragmented the way it has. However, I would hate to see this held up because of concerns about El Morro at the same time. Along that same line, when we do our environmental review for a project one of the things you look at are the comprehensive impacts and it's a public disclosure process. And at this point, you can do some really good things with some bad results if you don't study it thoroughly. And at this point I really feel that the environmental review that has been done for this project in the areas of history, water quality, biology, and some other factors, really could use some more in-depth review. And as far as adopting the general policies and guidelines, I think that's fine. But as far as a specific design plan, it could use more massaging. So, I do hope that as those studies become available that you do include the public in those studies and include the public in that process because we have some very qualified people. We have Mr. Brown in the area of water quality. We have biologists and so forth that are in the public and are willing and ready to participate and lend their expertise. I am particularly concerned about the absence of a review of the impacts on dolphins as a result of this plan, especially because this has been used by dolphins in the area. It's believed to have been used as a birthing area and with underwater speakers

that could be once again the best of intentions resulting in something very bad. And then finally on a personal level, not speaking on behalf of the Crystal Cove Task Force, I have some concerns about the access to the facility. For years, we have been able to come down the hill, drop off people and then go back up the hill and then park in Los Trancos. And that certainly wouldn't be a desirable situation on say the 4th of July, or other peak periods. But during the winter months I think you should make some provision for that because you probably won't be running any kind of a shuttle because it won't be worth it for the few people that come out. And I thought it very interesting that staff said well, we want to encourage people to walk so we can increase the excitement of the experience. And I will tell you, if I have my 83 year old mother there, getting her back up the hill is definitely going to be an exciting experience. Thank you.

Jean Stern/The Irvine Museum – Good morning Commissioners. I'm here to talk to you about the artistic heritage of Crystal Cove and to show you some slides of some paintings that were painted along the coast in the Laguna area and many including the Crystal Cove area. We are in support of the final document and the general plan. Thank you. And all elements of the visitor use facility including the community arts research and education program. Laguna Beach has been a center of very important American art since the 1880s when artists began visiting the area. I'm showing you a slide of a painting that was done about 1915 of a view of what Laguna Beach looked like in 1915 and this is directly looking into Sleepy Hollow and the unpaved road that you see off to the right is actually the Pacific Coast Highway. It is an area where there was a significant artistic presence and we feel that that presence should be represented in terms of an education process and in terms of using the park, to the greater amount of the public to benefit from this. This photograph shows a group of artists and patrons of the Laguna Beach Art Association, taken in 1918 on the occasion of the very first full-time art exhibition from the Laguna Beach Art Association. In that photograph are artists such as Guy Rose and Donna Schuster and Maurice Braun and several others which are patrons and not just artists. So, the long tradition of the artistic presence there starts from the very beginning of the area. And the reason is of course because the coast along Orange County was such a beautiful locale and became so popular with artists that it is still that way. There's still a very large presence of artists in Orange County. This is a painting done about 1925 of a place called Boat Canyon which is a part of Laguna Beach. Many of these beach access areas are not available any more. They've been either closed or unavailable. So, to have something like Crystal Cove available and make it available to the public is something that we feel is very, very beneficial. This is an artists named Frank Cuprian, painting right on the beach in what we call the plein air or outdoor style. It is simply that if you're going to paint that beautiful light and the beautiful color of the coast and the hills, that you should be in the landscape. So, this is a technique that was brought to the fore by the French impressionists, but it continued in American art and it is still active today with artists. These are paintings by Frank Cuprian of the coast. Many of these were painted in Laguna Beach. Some were painted in Crystal Cove. Some were painted in Irvine Cove and Emerald Bay. The entire coast there is full of beautiful and artistic coves that have always been an attraction to artists and to this day there's a large group of artists that paint this type of scene. This is by Franz Bischoff, done about 1920. This is the entrance to Corona del Mar. Those rocks are still there and the rest of it has changed somewhat but you can still see the same view. This is by Anna Hills, one of the many important woman artists in our region which is unusual because at this time, in the late 1800's and early 1900's, there were several art colonies throughout the country, but no women's presence to speak of except in Southern California. There's quite a large group of important women artists. This was done in 1920 at Moss Point Beach.

Chair Hart interrupted Mr. Stern. Chair Hart apologized for interrupting, and commented that while the slides of paintings were amazing, she was concerned about the length of his presentation given the number of speakers that were still to be heard. Mr. Stern apologized for going on for so long and excused himself.

Joan Irvine Smith/Crystal Cove Conservancy/Individual – Now, with respect to Mr. Stern's presentation, one of the reasons that I became involved, and my mother and I created the Irvine Museum, was first because of the quality and the beauty of these paintings. But secondly, our mission has been to show these paintings to allow Californians and other visitors to recognize what we have lost as far as our environmental resources over the last hundred years. And that's what makes the art so very, very important for this project. So, in any event, these paintings show you what's gone. Now, our contemporary artists can show you what's here and what still remains and what we need to protect. And Crystal Cove State Park is an island in time. You can go down there and you can see when there's not people on the beach, but you can go down there when that beach is empty, that park is exactly the way it was 10,000 years ago when the first Indians came here. Also, what it provides is the preservation of those vernacular cottages which were began to be built back in 1917, 1916, some place in there, and the little painting there (pointing to painting on display) is of what Crystal Cove looked like, where the Historic District is at the time that the movie industry came here and originally put those cottages in because that was the thing that got started. That's when they would go down and they would of course lease it from the Irvine Company. So, in any event, this is a tradition that we want to keep. But not only because of the fact that we're just keeping it here to do paintings whether they're the cottages or whether they're of the natural area within the park. But in order to preserve. Not only those assets that are the environmental assets, but also the cultural assets that demonstrate what life was like when people came down and they stayed on the beach in the cottages. Now, we support the general plan amendment. We support all elements of the visitor use facilities, all identified adaptive uses, all park operations, and all components of the Community Arts Resources and Education Program, CARE. We further would like to see the multi-use classroom be identified as a Crystal Cove Cultural Center. This would be a much more suitable name for a number of reasons. And we want to see the visiting artists program and scientific programs should be incorporated into this general plan because these are extremely, extremely important. We support the staff security housing. We support the lifeguard substitution and aquatic program. A good friend of mine is Charlie Kennel who is the head of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. And one of the things that Charlie Kennel has in mind, and which Crystal Cove would be a part of, is what he terms marine missions, and they want to tie-in the Ocean Institute, they want to tie-in Crystal Cove, they want it to go up to Monterey and other entities in-between. So, this would be to get people to come there to learn about marine studies and to learn what we need to preserve with respect to our ocean waters. And I probably used up my time, but in any event, these are all the things that we support and hopefully this plan will be approved today. We've been fooling around with this thing for two years. Now, let's do something and get it done.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Irvine Smith for everything she'd done to make the park a reality.

Dan Lau/Orange County Department of Education – My name's Dan Lau and I'm here representing Orange County Department of Education. I work with school districts all over the county and I want to limit my discussion to very specifics. I moved here from Hawaii in 1965 where we had access to all of our beaches. And I heard about this thing called Crystal Cove, and I drove up and down the coast and I knew it was in the general area, but not until two years ago when I was invited by the Conservancy to Protect Crystal Cove to deploy some technology at the facility to provide broad access to students. Orange County has over half a million students and what we've done is put some technology there where we can have interactive experiences with divers under water, with the tide pools, and so forth. Not all kids can have the experience of coming to the Cove and it's a fragile environment anyway and we're setting up a network and the State has actually funded a statewide network, a broadband network, and there's an opportunity to bring these experiences to students all over the State and all over the country. But before I jump to all over the state and all over the country, we have kids in our own neighborhood, in Santa Ana, that's just twenty miles up the street, that have never been to the beach. So, there's an opportunity to share those experiences with those children. Thank you.

Dave Rahn/Individual – I am citizen interested in what's been going on at Crystal Cove, having been introduced to the Cove just a little over two years ago. I'm a businessman. I also fancy myself as a part-time artist and a supporter of the visual arts. So, I've been interested in what's been going on at the Cove over the last two years. In fact, I've been so interested in the arts that I've been instrumental, with a good friend of mine, in helping participate in the fund raising at Laguna Art Museum and having created an event there that's raised over a million dollars in the last four years, partially benefiting the museum. I'd just like to say that I'm really impressed with this plan and the way that the staff has worked together to create a very good plan that works together to preserve, and experience something that's been experienced by many, but never known by most. The Crystal Cove plan preserves the dreams of the people who've lived there, the people who have stayed there so that they are remembered and treasured for what they were and what the Cove is today. More importantly, I'd like to recognize after reading through the plan documents the educational, the cultural, and overnight accommodations, that can be I believe, will be financially successful, something that's very important in this particular time of economics. Activities that we envision at the park include the multi-use classroom and cultural art center. Including the self-funding of a visiting artists program and successful arts programs that have occurred in many other state parks and national parks. Using Internet capabilities we can also supplement our arts and science training through many other experiences such as the ones we've talked about today with the oceanography program. I believe this plan has been carefully crafted over the last year and a half. I'd like to make sure that we recognize the work of all the stakeholders in the Alliance and the Conservancy, the State Parks office, and the many other groups and individuals who have actively participated in its development. Since this plan meets the goals and objectives of the majority of stakeholders while recognizing the unique environmental needs of the park, I urge you to adopt the plan. Thank you.

Dr. Laurel Breece/Laguna Beach City College Maritime Archaeology Program – Good morning, I'm Dr. Laurel Breece, Director of the Maritime Archeology Program at Long Beach City College and a member of the Board of the Marine Conservation Research Institute of the Aquarium of the Pacific. As such I fully support the Preservation and Public Use Plan. I'm also the co-author of the Cultural Resource Study of the California State Parks Marine Managed Areas commissioned by California State Parks and Recreation. This study focused on identifying and understanding the cultural resources of California's underwater parks and how to make these parks accessible to the public while also preserving our maritime heritage. Cultural resources at Crystal Cove include terrestrial prehistoric and archeological sites as well as submerged historic cultural resources. If the mandate of California State Parks is to provide public access to these underwater parks, then there is also a responsibility to provide informed access. The problems facing the extinction of submerged cultural resources are not all that different from the extinction of species. In the cultural resources study, our specific recommendation for Crystal Cove State Park was to collaborate with academic institutions to develop educational on-site facilities and to develop future projects focused on maritime archeology and marine biology to enhance the public enjoyment of the park. For these reasons, I believe the marine research aquatic program support and educational components of the plan are vital to the future of Crystal Cove's Historic District. Thank you.

Sandra Lapham/Orange County Department of Education – Good morning. My name is Sandra Lapham and I'm the Administrator for Instructional Technology with the Orange County Department of Education. I'm here on behalf of William Habermehl, the County Superintendent of Schools, and I'd like to read a message from him: As County Superintendent of Schools for Orange County I support the final document, the general plan amendment, and all elements of the visitor use facilities. The identified adaptive uses and park operations and all components of the Community Arts Research and Education Programs. The Orange County Department of Education is particularly interested in the use of technology. The Crystal Cove Historic District is a treasure with great educational value that should

be available to all students. Through technology such as interactive video conferencing, students who might never have an opportunity to experience an actual field trip would be able to visit and explore Crystal Cove. OCDE, the department, has successfully brought other venues such as the Ocean Institute and the Smithsonian Air and Science Museum into the classroom. Again, I support the development of the Crystal Cove Historic District as outlined above and look forward to many years of educational opportunities for all students. Respectfully, William M. Habermehl, County Superintendent of Schools. Thank you.

Chair Hart thanked Ms. Lapham for delivering Mr. Habermehl's message.

Pam Johnson/Orange County Department of Education – Good morning, my name is Pam Johnson. I'm the Administrator for Inside the Outdoors, the hands-on science programs offered through the Orange County Department of Education. A picture says a thousand words. I know you can picture this, but inside our brochure is a copy of students at Crystal Cove. They are participating in educational programs that are organized, safe, and educational. Ocean Institute, and many of the people represented here are interested in educating students, and I believe the experience is what is so essential, particularly at Crystal Cove. I observed one student there who was from Tustin who said, "I came all the way from Tustin." And he was holding a sea star in his hand and he made the physical connection that this was an animal and that there were animals living in the ocean. If he hadn't been there he wouldn't have connected the concepts and made an impression for the rest of his life. The love of the ocean is what ties us to the mountains, the waters, and we're learning about the trash, the water, the people who come from the mountains to the sea. The sea is a focal point, and an enjoyable part of our education. So, I encourage these educational activities. They are part of our future. By allowing the kids to come there, you build a work force that is interested in technology. They learn and they don't even realize it and that's the best way to learn. They become interested in math, science, education. They become better educated citizens and they help preserve this area. So, I would encourage the educational plan as it's listed in the general plan, the CARE portion of the uses and park operations. Thank you.

Anita Hampton/Laguna Plein Air Painters (LPAPA) and California Art Club (CAC) – Thank you for being here. I'm Anita Hampton, representing the Laguna Plein Air Painters Art Association and the California Art Club. We were going to show you some slides. I am here because of what I've experienced over the past twenty years painting off and on in Laguna Beach, symbolic of many communities in California. Only a few years ago, views with open sites were easy to locate. Last July when attending a Plein Air painting event, I became so frustrated because I couldn't find an open landscape. I nearly painted a garage door titling it "Landlocked." My heart ached not for me, but for the residents of Laguna. Laguna images we once remembered no longer exist. A piece of California history has died. I support the plan presented today. In addition, I urge you to allocate appropriate space for a cultural center that offers education, presentation, and the resources from ongoing programs that cultivate continued public interest and awareness for all ages. We all feel the affects of the alarming rate of changes in our world. You purchase your computer today and by the time you get it up and running it's now outdated. Changes are occurring so rapidly in all aspects of our lives we haven't time to think and reflect. I am a Plein Air painter. I paint landscape paintings outdoors as I work one-to-one with my subject of vision – the open landscape. As I paint I experience beauty God has gifted to us. Many times it's in our own backyard. I as a painter feel an obligation to share those feelings with the general public as they look at my finished paintings and hopefully through that experience, a person will be so moved that they will begin to look at familiar areas with a new and restored vision. Once that was so important to them, such as Crystal Cove. If I as a painter can ignite one person to slow down and think about the consequences and decision that are made in haste from individual and financial desires and urgencies I've done my job well. We must work together to secure this

piece of California history. I as a painter also feel the need to instruct students of fine art. Why? Because I teach the technical skills to express the emotion, the emotional impact of future artists. In turn, they encourage others to look at their surrounding with a new and nurtured, with a new vision and nurtured time of memorable reflections. Art is vitally needed in our society as it portrays an emotional impact to history from the artist's hand. Photography is an intermediate medium offering documentation for historical and scientific use. Scientists conduct ecological studies that support the preservation of the land. Together, these entities can contribute the emotion, documentation, and ecological findings at a given point in time in our history. As ongoing classes and study programs are being conducted on-site, the visiting public will be constantly sensitive to the environment and they'll be inspired and it will ensure their continued interest and support of this project. Let Crystal Cove be on the cutting edge. The path that leads to these new and exciting venues to help preserve experience and reflect the wonderful and nurturing memories of the past – the past of our grandmothers and our grandfathers. Your childhood and the freedom we once experienced as young Americans to be shared with future generations. Together we can preserve this quaint and historical area and make it not only an important part of California's past, but also of its future. Thank you.

Meriam Brasello stated that she had a few slides to show the Commission.

Chair Hart stated that regarding presentations, it was the Commission's desire to restrict presentations to Crystal Cove itself – not to restrict the speaker's actual presentations, but to keep slides to the subject of Crystal Cove and the business at hand. She thanked those present for their understanding.

Meriam Brasello/Laguna Plein Air Painters – Good morning, I'm Meriam Brasello, President of Brasello Design Company and the Artist Liaison for Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. First of all, I'd like to congratulate the staff at California State Parks for doing such a great job of the almost impossible task of blending the many elements and special interests into the Preservation and Public Use Plan for the Crystal Cove Historic District. We support all elements of this plan. The visitor use facilities, the identified adaptive uses, the park operations, and all components of the CARE programs. The colorful history of Crystal Cove and the surrounding areas are the cultural fabric that make this area special. The early California Plein Air painters created some of the first images that we treasure from yesterday. It is important we continue the tradition of documenting the landscape, teaching painting, and creating a collection of fine art to share with the future generations. We would appreciate the consideration of the following: Allocate the use of two cottages for the education and cultural center on the bluff top. The old Japanese schoolhouse which is already earmarked for this use, as well as the neighboring cottage which would create a space large enough for a fully functioning cultural center. One cottage could be used for ongoing scheduled programs with the flexibility of using the other for community events and educational public uses. Our second recommendation is that the space for overnight check-ins be provided at Los Trancos. This would further reduce the impact of traffic in the Historic District. By reworking existing decks and by adjoining the two yard areas of the two cottages, a community meeting space could be formed. A series of (unclear) could support the deck leaving a natural landscape below it. The deck and the railing could be built using the same design detailing already found within the Cove. Since this area is on the bluff away from the other cottages, functions being held here would not affect the rest of the Historic District. In 2001, LPAPA worked with, in collaboration with the Crystal Cove Conservancy and the Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove, on two events. \$60,000 was earned to facilitate restoration projects within the Historic District. Events like these as well as ongoing workshops and classes could stimulate the financial resources keeping Crystal Cove active, vital, and accessible to the public, as well as providing ongoing financial support in these financially uncertain times. We the artists would like to work with California State Parks to implement and supplement the art in the parks program. Also, it is our desire to help to create an important collection of paintings from Crystal Cove and in other California State Parks. We can begin the

collection of paintings from established artists by implementing the visiting artists program. Through visiting artists, scientists, and public programs, we could offer opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and exchange that builds understanding and appreciation for the role of art in our society. We would like to help you accomplish your vision at Crystal Cove, we just need the space to have a fully functioning area. And we support the allocated space to create these programs and to stick with the plan that you've created. Thank you.

Laura Davick/Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove – Good morning Madam Chair and Commissioners. My name is Laura Davick. I'm the founder of the Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove, Co-founder of the Crystal Cove Conservancy, and Vice-President of the California League of Park Associations. I'm also a third generation and lifelong resident of the Cove. First I would like to commend State Parks District Superintendent Mike Tope and the entire planning team on what has been a very, very challenging task. Since that infamous evening on January 18, 2001, this project has come a very long way. State Parks has reviewed a number of proposals and has entertained lengthy public input. Instead of selecting any one plan as a preferred plan, it took what it considered to be the best elements of each plan. No one group is going to get everything they want, yet the plan has something for everyone. I believe this final document represents a balanced plan for the reuse of the Historic District. There are some speakers that you've heard before me that feel that every cottage should be going into the overnight accommodation section. They feel that the educational uses are not a public use. I disagree. I support this final document, the general plan amendment, all elements of the visitor use facilities, the adaptive uses, park operations, and the Community Arts Research and Education program. The interpretive and education programs are important, an important component in the overall plan. Educational programs will help to inform the public on how best to preserve this precious resource and will also provide a monitoring presence to ensure that negative impacts are minimized. I also support the cutting edge technology of the interactive video conferencing. This could make virtual field trips a reality for students and people from around the world. We may not be able to bring all children to Crystal Cove, but we can take Crystal Cove to them. For the past year, I've been leading tours at the Historic District sharing with them the rich history, culture, and environmental wonders of the Cove. People are fascinated by this. It's what brings the Cove to life. It brings a special resource to life when we first started the live broadcast on the underwater park, I thought it was going to be an exciting project, but I didn't know how exciting. I thought I knew every nook and cranny of this place and come to find the underwater park is an area that no one has seen. So, I think that this is really an exciting project and I support it wholeheartedly. I do have two suggestions on the general plan amendment that's before you today. One, I would very much like to see that the multi-use classroom be identified as the Crystal Cove Cultural Center. This would be a much more suitable name for a number of reasons. The location that has been identified for this adaptive use is the original Japanese schoolhouse. This important historic cultural site should be appropriately named as the cultural center. It will be here that park visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the historic cultural aspects of Crystal Cove. This facility could be available for special fund raising events, symposiums, educational, and environmental lectures, Plein Air painting workshops, artistic, cultural, and community events. Private donors would be much more inclined to make a financial contribution to the Crystal Cove Cultural Center than to a multi-use classroom. Various forms of fund raising will be absolutely essential for the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the Cove. I ask that you give this careful consideration in light of the uncertain economic future of the State Park system. As most of you are aware, we are facing the worst budget year in the history of the State. I don't need to elaborate on that, but I think that it's imperative that we look to alternative ways of raising funds for this park. The Alliance to Rescue Crystal Cove, the Crystal Cove Conservancy, and Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, we've raised over \$60,000 in two events through the sale of paintings. I believe we are the only two organizations that have raised funds for the park at this time. I've been focused on fund raising for this park through this

means and also through Prop 40 and I feel that in order to continue to do so, it would be most helpful to have a vehicle such as the cultural center whereby we could do this. The second request that I have is that we give some consideration to the visiting artists and scientist program and incorporate that into the general plan amendment. This adaptive use was originally included in the State Parks vision plan. Originally it was thought that a single cottage could be dedicated for this use. However, we also discussed that this could probably work well in the overnight accommodation or also the hostel component. A visiting artist program would enhance the art education programs within the Historic District by providing for temporary, brief lodgings to a variety of guest instructors throughout the year to teach and inspire park visitors and workshop participants. A visiting scientist program would assist guest researchers conducting research on many of Crystal Cove's state parks natural, cultural, and environmental resources. This would encourage a variety of relatively short-term research projects in order to gather a wide range of useful park-related information that could be made available to the park visitor. This program could include baseline studies of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems, evaluating environmental impacts of urbanization and continuous water quality monitoring. What is learned here could benefit communities throughout California and beyond. We recognize that these programs would be directly managed and governed by State Parks and not by any one special interest group. Park Operations, we support this. We recommend that the two locations identified within the Historic District for park operations and maintenance be reduced from two to one. Park staff security housing, we believe that we should keep the staff housing as identified and as numbered so that there is room for flexibility in the future. At this time, management of the Historic District and its new public use warrants a phased approach while allowing flexibility to mitigate these new unknown impacts to this resource. This can best be accomplished by having in-resident peace officers. It is also my understanding that there's been a recent change that was submitted by staff that if it can be determined that this could be done with less units, then it will be. And I'm sure that Mike Tope our District Superintendent would elect to make that change. The lifeguard substation aquatic programs I feel are very, very, important. We support this adaptive use and believe the aquatic visitor safety should be of priority followed by resource protection. By opening the Historic District's cottages for overnight rentals, there will be increased number of swimmers, surfers, divers, as well as pressure on our sensitive marine habitat. It is my understanding that this aquatic program will also house the first aid and the technology hub for the underwater park. And that concludes my comments. Thank you very much.

Chair Hart stated that she was aware that Ms. Davick had attended virtually every hearing that was connected with Crystal Cove State Park. She thanked Ms. Davick for her efforts on behalf of the park. Chair Hart also again thanked staff members Alan Tang, Mike Tope, Jim Newland, Bob Hare, and Ken Kramer.

Murray Rosenthal addressed the Chair, saying that he hadn't been called to speak.

Chair Hart apologized to Mr. Rosenthal, explaining that she had not received his speaker form.

Commissioner Shriver addressed the Chair, stating that the time he would be able to remain on his teleconferencing connection was limited.

Chair Hart reminded the remaining speakers that, out of necessity, it would be essential to keep their comments as brief as possible.

Murray Rosenthal/Sierra Club Crystal Cove Task Force – My name is Murray Rosenthal. I'm Chairman of the Sierra Club State Park Committee, and Chair of the Crystal Cove Task Force. In general we find the plan acceptable, but we take issue with several detail points. I won't go into those because we've recorded our comments in our responses. I want to make a couple of specific comments. I'll limit them to two. We find the Preservation and Public Use Plan and the General Plan Amendment lacking in details pending future planning efforts and additional experience. There's a plus to this. It's

a living plan and it can be changed dynamically based on experience. There's a negative to it in that it can get out of whack with public expectations and as a result we would urge the Department to make a concerted effort to bring detailed planning efforts back to the user community, the stakeholder community, for input review and comment. And one other area is that I think we need explicit language in the General Plan Amendment precluding any possible future conversion to a resort configuration. And I have to take issue with the statement that ranger personnel, staff personnel, live in structures at Bodie and Will Rogers and Columbia and many other parks. All the parks that have been cited do not have any component of overnight housing. It's absolutely appropriate in those cases to use existing structures to house personnel. In this particular case, housing personnel takes away from public access and the actual difference between the concession which was, I would call it, rustic sheik. And the concession made a point of that, the only difference that would be involved, it would be a change of a management style and the conversion of interior furnishings to a higher level of luxury. And I urge you to add a one sentence, two sentences, of limitation. I beg you in fact to avoid the possibility of a future administration seeing this as a money producer and simply, explicitly, state that this is a low price, low cost public-use facility and require that any possible conversion of this in the future would require a reopening of the General Plan Amendment process. Thank you.

Commissioner Cotchett asked Mr. Rosenthal if he was familiar with the law in regard to the general planning process. He asked Mr. Rosenthal if he knew that changing things would require a re-opening of the general plan process.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that it would if it required a physical modification of the plan.

Commissioner Cotchett stated that such a situation would require a brand new general plan, and he asked Mr. Rosenthal if he agreed that this was correct.

Mr. Rosenthal confirmed that this would require a general plan amendment.

Commissioner Cotchett thanked Mr. Rosenthal for clarifying this.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that he believed such a modification could be made to the plan by making a one-sentence addition.

Commissioner Cotchett stated that he had no desire to debate this point with Mr. Rosenthal, but that he wanted to make sure that everyone present understood that what Mr. Rosenthal was suggesting could not happen without going through the entire general plan legal process.

An unidentified member of the audience stated that this was not true.

Commissioner Cotchett thanked Mr. Rosenthal for his input.

Irene Black/Individual – I'm Irene Black and I'm here to talk for a group that hasn't been spoken for all morning, and that is the Grandmas and the Grandpas you were talking about and the little children you were talking about. For thirty years I've used Crystal Cove and I've taken my friends who aren't as lucky as I am to be able to walk down those inclines. I've taken them down to the beach, left them off, gone and parked up on the top. I've taken the grandchildren in there, just like that lady has, with the strollers. Taken them down, left them off. I didn't know anybody at the time who lived in Crystal Cove, but none of those tenants ever stopped me. I never bothered anybody. I went and parked up there and walked down. Now I can't do that. Now, Mike Tope was nice enough to talk to me and say that they are providing a shuttle, but the shuttle only goes as far as the the gate. I have friends who are amputees and the family of amputees who probably will not be able to get to the central beach any more. There's nothing been said about how often that shuttle runs, how much it will cost, and I can assure you that the Grandmas and Grandpas and little two- and three-year-olds don't go on Saturdays and Sundays. They go during the week. And I think you should make it clear as it is not clear to the

staff, whom I appreciate very much by the way, but it is not clear to them that you can go down and leave people off. If you're worried about vehicular access, then get rid of the beach store. Get rid of the cafes. Trader Joe's is just great and we've got about five cafes up there and best place to eat in Orange County. So, I think you could, you know, realize that in that manner without the great impact you'll have on these groups of people, who are not disabled, by the way. They are not disabled, but they just can't make it down. Thank you very much.

Chair Hart thanked the public speakers for their comments. Chair Hart then announced that the public comment period on this agenda item was now closed. She then asked if State Parks staff had anything to say in response to the public comments. There being no further comments from staff, Chair Hart asked for a motion to adopt the resolution before the Commission to approve the Preliminary General Plan Amendment for Crystal Cove State Park as contained in the Crystal Cove Historic District Preservation and Public Use Plan and Environmental Impact Report.

Motion Commissioner Eastwood, second Commissioner Cotchett. The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to approve the Preliminary General Plan Amendment for Crystal Cove State Park as contained in the Crystal Cove Historic District Preservation and Public Use Plan and Environmental Impact Report.

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

Chair Hart asked if there were any registered speakers on any other topics. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other agenda items, Chair Hart asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion Commissioner Eastwood, second Commissioner Cotchett. The commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn. Chair Hart adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Coleman, Secretary