

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 77 FAIR DRIVE
JULY 28, 2016
ACTION MINUTES**

	Staff Recommendation	Action Minutes
3. Roll Call		Chair Eckles: Present Vice Chair Graham: Present Commissioner de Arakal: Present Commissioner Mercurio: Present Commissioner Pederson: Present
4. Approval of Minutes of the June 23, 2016 Meeting of the PRC.	Approve	MOTION made by Commissioner Pederson to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 5-0.
7. Consent Calendar		
a) Instructional Class Proposals	Approve	MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 5-0.
9. New Business		
a) Spring 2016 Field Allocation Report and Amendments to the Existing Field Use and Allocation Policy (FUAP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive and file the spring 2016 field allocation report; and, 2. Approve minor language changes and the addition of a code of conduct to the Field Use and Allocation Policy (FUAP) 	<p>MOTION made by Chair Eckles to receive and file the spring 2016 field allocation report, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 5-0.</p> <p>MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve minor language changes and the addition of a code of conduct to the Field Use and Allocation Policy (FUAP) pending inclusion of language about specific behavior(s) that will result in a strike against an organization, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 5-0.</p>
b) Review of Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan; and, 2. Partner with OC Parks to search and apply for grants and other funding opportunities; and recommend the 	MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to partner with OC Parks to search and apply for grants and other funding opportunities; and recommend the implementation of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, excluding the pier and boardwalk over Victoria Pond, and implementation of tidal connection salt marsh under Alternative 3, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 5-0.

	implementation of Alternative 1 and select elements of Alternatives 2 and 3.	
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Justin Martin
Recreation Manager

08/02/16
Date



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 28, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 170

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF TALBERT REGIONAL PARK FINAL HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN

DATE: JULY 18, 2016

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: BALTAZAR MEJIA, CITY ENGINEER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BALTAZAR MEJIA AT (714) 754-5335

RECOMMENDATION

Review the Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan prepared by Orange County Parks (OC Parks) and provide recommendations to the City Council:

1. Partner with OC Parks to search and apply for grants and other funding opportunities
2. Recommend the implementation of Alternative 1 and select elements of Alternatives 2 and 3

BACKGROUND

In May 2014, OC Parks, the managing agency for Talbert Regional Park, retained the services of Moffatt & Nichol and a team of sub consultants to prepare a habitat restoration plan for Talbert Regional Park. The plan is intended to identify park enhancement opportunities, specific needs and recommended actions. OC Parks and their consultant held a number of progress meetings that included adjacent landowners and non-profit organizations, and public stakeholder meetings to gather information and develop a comprehensive plan. The final plan was completed in February 2016 (Attachment 1).

ANALYSIS

The plan identifies the features of the park, resources, and opportunities and constraints. The results of this analysis yielded three alternatives (Attachment 2) that were designed to progressively implement more elements of a general master plan. The first alternative provides for the removal of non-native plants, adds planting to the top of bluffs and a new trail around Victoria Pond. The second and third alternatives add additional components designed to improve accessibility to the park and enhance and create new habitats.

Talbert Regional Park due to its proximity to other Costa Mesa parks and residential neighborhoods is used and enjoyed by Costa Mesa residents. Staff requests the Commission to review the proposed plan and recommend that the City Council authorize a partnership with OC Parks to implement Alternative 1 and select components of Alternative 2 and 3 that could be implemented at a relatively low cost and fewer environmental impacts. City staff is already working with OC Parks to provide bike trail access from 19th Street to the Santa Ana River along the southern boundary. Other elements that could be recommended include:

From Alternative 2:

- Improve entrances to the park along Balboa Boulevard
- Plant the bluff top with coastal sage and manage the slope for erosion
- Expand the acreage of tree canopy cover in restoration sites C, D and E
- Non-native removal and planting of riparian habitat
- Add ADA compliant loop trail
- Remove the fence around Victoria Pond
- Construct a pier over Victoria Pond
- Stock Victoria Pond with fish

From Alternative 3:

- Bike trail access from 19th Street to the Santa Ana River along the southern boundary
- Improved entrances to the park along Balboa Boulevard
- Small footbridges over peripheral waterways connecting Victoria Pond

The analysis of each alternative is discussed in detail in the attached plan and includes an opinion of probable cost to compare the relative cost to implement the proposed elements.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Commission may recommend support for any combination of the proposed alternatives and/or specific components of the respective alternatives.

FISCAL REVIEW

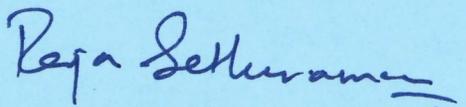
There is no fiscal impact for the recommended action. However, if the Commission recommends partnering with OC Parks to implement the plan, City Council may approve funding to be used as seed money for grants or to start implementing selected elements.

LEGAL REVIEW

A legal review is not required for this item.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Commission review the attached plan and recommend to the City Council that the City partner with OC Parks to find funding opportunities to implement the plan or specific components of the proposed alternatives.



for

JAMES G. ROSS
Interim Public Services Director



BALTAZAR MEJIA
City Engineer

- Attachments:
1. Talbert Regional Park Final Habitat Restoration Plan
 2. Alternatives 1-3 Figures

Distribution:

Thomas R. Hatch, Chief Executive Officer
Rick Francis, Assistant CEO
Tammy Letourneau, Assistant CEO/Admin Svcs Dir.
Stephen Dunivent, Interim Finance Director
Justin Martin, Recreation Manager

Please refer to Attachment 3 of City Council
Agenda Report

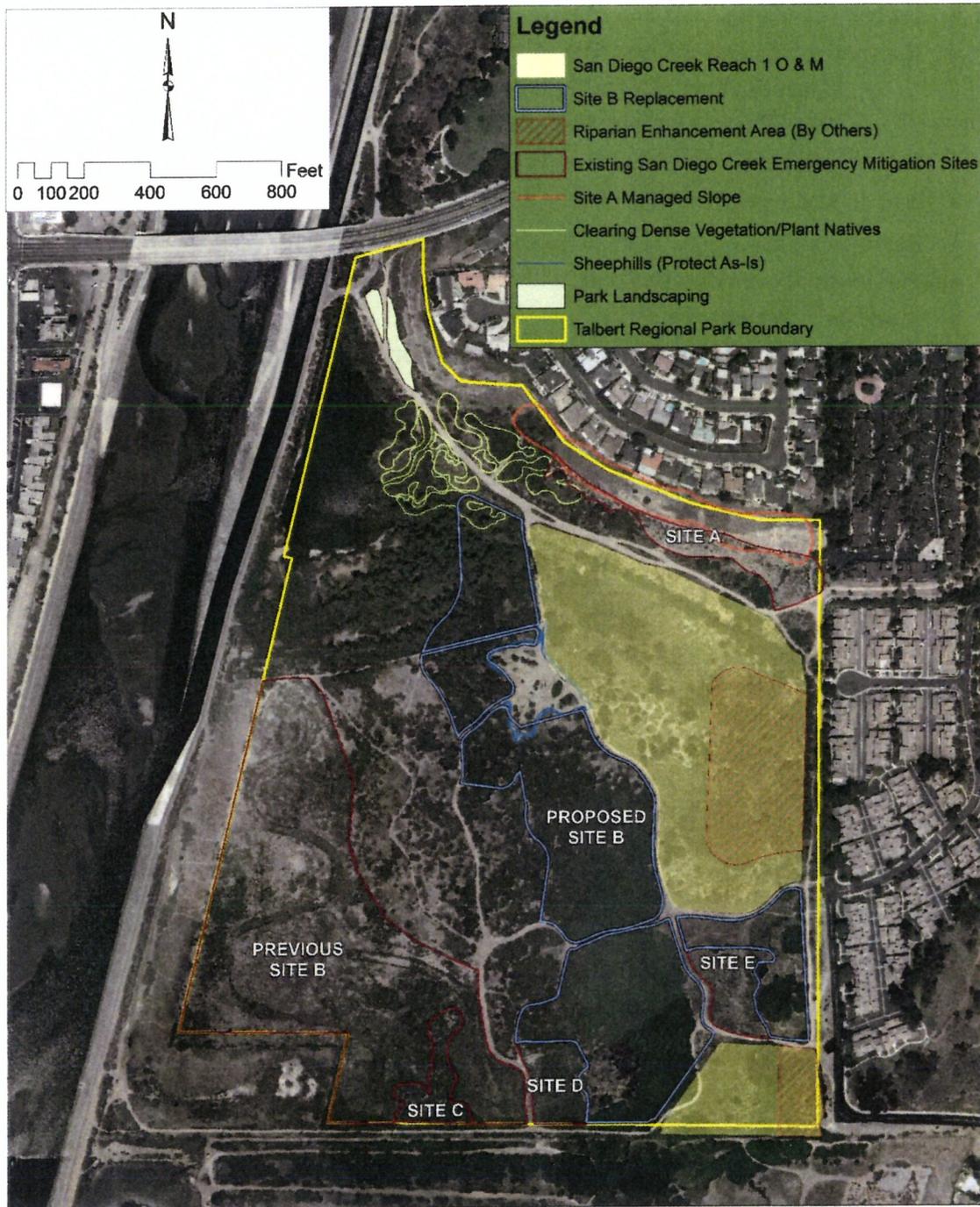


Figure 23: Alternative 1

- Expand the acreage and tree canopy cover in restoration sites C, D and E
- Non-native removal and plantings of riparian habitat
 - Placentia Drain at North Talbert
 - Throughout the site at South Talbert
- Grading the transitional slope for salt marsh wetlands
- Add an ADA compliant loop trail
- Remove the fence around the pond or reconfigure it to allow greater access
- Pier (option) over Victoria Pond
- Stock the pond with fish
- Sheephills will have perimeter grading only for pedestrian traffic

For a detailed description and analysis of access and trail improvements, see *Analysis of Alternatives* in the subsequent sections of this report.



Figure 25: Alternative 2

- Grade existing channel depression in southwest area, add new feeder channels
- Grade drainage channel east of pond and naturalize it
- Non-native removal and plantings of riparian habitat
 - Placentia Drain at North Talbert
 - Throughout the site at South Talbert
- ADA compliant trails
- Boardwalk over Victoria Pond
- Small footbridges over peripheral waterways connecting to Victoria Pond
- Sheephills perimeter grading only for pedestrian traffic

For a detailed description and analysis of access and trail improvements, see *Analysis of Alternatives* in the subsequent sections of this report.



Figure 27: Alternative 3