

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BEACH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2011**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clare Bronowski, Chair
Catherine McCurdy, Vice Chair
Ron Chatman
Rosi Dagit
Walt Dougher
Jeffrey Jennings
Kelly McDowell
Charles Milam
Wayne Powell
Jeffrey Sallee

ABSENCES

Thomas Barnes
Norma Pratt
Andrew Stern
Don Rohrer

STAFF PRESENT

Santos Kreimann, Director
Mike Frazer, Chief, Lifeguard Division, Los Angeles
County Fire Department
Kenneth Foreman, Division Chief, Facilities and
Property Maintenance Division
Catrina Love, Community & Marketing
Services Division
Penelope Rodriguez, Community & Marketing
Services Division
Cesar Espinosa, Planning Division

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jack Topel, Environmental Scientist,
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

MEETING LOCATION

Burton W. Chace Park Community Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Bronowski called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. and asked Commissioner Jennings to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners and staff stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Bronowski asked if there were changes for the September minutes. Commissioner Milam asked that the minutes from the July meeting be changed to reflect that he and Commissioner McDowell's abstained in the July vote. Ms. Love mentioned that the date for the next meeting from the September minutes was wrong, it should be October. **Vice-Chair McCurdy motioned for the minutes to be approved with changes being made. Commissioner Milam seconded with the**

changes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on the Zuma Creek Fish Habitat

Chair Bronowski introduced Mr. Topel, from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC). Mr. Topel showed the commissioners a PowerPoint presentation on the Zuma Creek watershed. Mr. Topel updated the commissioners on the SMBRC's goals for stream restoration in Zuma Creek and restoring access for the Steelhead Trout, an endangered species. Mr. Topel said that they were aware of short term and long term goals for the watershed. In the short term, they would like to remove the Arizona Crossing and replace it with a free span bridge or something similar that would allow fish passage. A roughly estimated cost for doing so would be \$1.6 million. Also discussed was the need to develop a strategy that addresses the need of the County to maintain access to the loop road. The goals would be to reduce maintenance, improve public safety and improve stream habitat. Long-term, the goal is to achieve a more natural stream form and function throughout the watershed. SMBRC would like to restore flood plain connectivity and function. Commissioner Sallee asked how they got the estimated proposal cost. Mr. Topel said their consultant gave them the rough estimate based on a very similar project that they are working on. Commissioner Milam asked whether the Creek would have to be stocked with Steelhead Trout after the restoration; and would the fish naturally migrate upstream. Commissioner Dagit said it's a \$25,000 fine to catch a Steelhead Trout. The fish go as far upstream as they are physically able. There is no proposal to stock Steelhead. Commissioner Jennings asked what evidence is there that the bridge is a barrier to the fish. Mr. Topel said the bridge was not the barrier, rather it's the sediment. The long term goal would be to provide different access to Zuma Beach, and remove the loop road. However, there is a lot of opposition to removing the road. Commissioner Jennings asked if that meant individuals would be making a left turn in front of opposing traffic to get to Zuma Beach. Mr. Kreimann answered that was one of the proposals the SMBRC had recommended to DBH. DBH does not believe this is safe and would not be supportive of a left hand lane being the primary entrance. Commissioner Jennings said this is a major issue for the residents, as the road provides an evacuation route for Malibu Park/Point Dume when there is fire. Chief Frazer concurred with Mr. Kreimann that it is an unsafe left turn and asked if the Arizona Crossing could be kept open but its configuration changed. Mr. Topel said they wanted to replace it with a bridge. Chief Frazer said he would be supportive of a bridge. Commissioner Milam asked Commissioner Jennings if that would be an acceptable solution. Commissioner Jennings said the Arizona Crossing was not his issue, but it is an issue for public safety personnel that have to get from one side to the other. Commissioner Powell asked if there were any issues with storm water runoff that could be adverse to the Steelhead Trout. Mr. Topel said no, that was not an issue. Chair Bronowski thanked Mr. Topel and Commissioner Dagit for the presentation.

B. Request by Malibu for Temporary Relocation of Skate Park to Zuma Beach Parking Lot

Mr. Kreimann explained that the City of Malibu was looking for a venue for their skate park. The park was closed and a developer wants to develop that area so the park needs to be relocated. Malibu

wants to relocate the park to a DBH parking lot on Zuma Beach temporarily. Mr. Kreimann asked if the commissioners had any suggestions or comments. Chair Bronowski asked if DBH needs the revenue from the parking spaces. Mr. Kreimann said the revenue impact would be minimal and it would take up approximately 60 spaces. The City of Malibu would reimburse the revenue. Ms. Love commented that the head of the Department's parking section said that parking lot only filled up twice this past summer. Chair Bronowski asked if the Coastal Commission would permit this. Mr. Kreimann said that Malibu would have to address any Coastal Commission concerns. Commissioner Dagit asked if the entrance was located next to Trancas Lagoon. Commissioner Dagit explained that the Trancas Lagoon, like Zuma Lagoon is a high Fish and Game priority when it comes to the issue of restoring Steelhead Trout access. Steelhead Trout were present there as recently as the 1980's. Mr. Kreimann said this was an existing access point. Commissioner Dagit asked if the entrance would be extended and if it was in use now. Mr. Kreimann said it is used by emergency personnel only. Commissioner Sallee asked if the plans would be executed within a year. Commissioner Dagit said no, as long as there is no water quality danger or access prevention to the fish in that area. There are other species of fish in the area as well. Commissioner Sallee asked how many people are expected to use this facility during this time. Ms. Love answered that vehicle usage estimates were at about 20 at a time. The park would only be open a few hours a day. Commissioner Dagit noted that the park would be readily accessible to students at the nearby high school. Ms. Love said that would mean higher visibility for the park. Commissioner Dagit added that DBH should proactively propose BMP's as part of the process to make sure there is no runoff. Commissioner Sallee asked about the emergency access. Chief Frazer said he didn't think Malibu had contacted any public safety agencies yet, but this would be a big issue because this is the emergency turnaround for engine squads and lifeguards. Chief Frazer also said that this skate park would draw on a lot of resources. There would be at least one head trauma call per week, and if someone should go unconscious, it's a medivac situation, where they would be taken to a trauma center. Chief Frazer stated that he saw some problems with the location and the Fire Department should be a part of this discussion. A commissioner asked how the area would be secured. Ms. Love said it will be fenced off. Chair Bronowski commented that more parking spaces would have to be taken away to make way for an emergency vehicle turnaround. Commissioner Milam asked were other areas being considered that would eliminate the access problem. Mr. Kreimann said moving it to the central parking area had been discussed as a better location but thought for DBH operations this lot would be better. Mr. Kreimann said DBH would be meeting with the Fire Department and Malibu for further discussion.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. Ongoing Activities Report

Ms. Love told the commissioners that the Board approved the third amendment to the Beach Trash Barrel Sponsorship agreement with Adopt-A-Highway which was reviewed with the Beach Commission last July.

B. Beach and Marina del Rey Special Events

Chair Bronowski asked if there were questions about the Special Events report. Commissioner Powell mentioned that the Pier to Pier Walk and all related events were held in Manhattan Beach. Commissioner Milam asked about the beach permit application process. Mrs. Rodriguez said there were about 44 applications still being reviewed and classified as to whether they meet the minimum

requirements before having a panel review them. There are 25 that are in competition for the same locations, the rest are not in competition, so they don't need to be reviewed by a panel. It would just be DBH staff. Commissioner Milam asked if any commissioners would be requested to work with staff on the review panel to ensure the legitimacy of the process. Mr. Kreimann said that DBH had partnered with surrounding cities that will be providing people to help review the applications. Mr. Kreimann thought it was best to have people not involved in the development of the process review the applications. Commissioner Milam asked if the Beach Commission would be involved at all in the process. Mr. Kreimann said the Board requested that DBH report directly to them. Commissioner Chatman commented that it would appear more comprehensive if a Beach Commissioner participates in the process. Mr. Kreimann said the function now is to have DBH go through the applications and rate them. Commissioner Dagit said a Beach Commissioner should be a part of the oversight committee for this first year for the community's interest. Mr. Kreimann said he had no problem with the Commission being part of the review, but not the scoring or selection. Commissioner Milam commented that the Commission should be involved in the review and monitoring. Chair Bronowski told Mr. Kreimann that he should talk to County Council before making any commitments. Mr. Kreimann said this process would be brought back to the commission as a report.

C. Facilities and Property Maintenance Division Report

Mr. Foreman told the commissioners that next week maintenance would be putting up berms, starting along Dockweiler on the south end and at Zuma at the north end. Mr. Foreman said that there was a portion of Paseo del Mar that was open to pedestrian traffic, but the area is completely shut off now because of a slide area. Mr. Foreman commented that Public Works is still renovating the bike path, so there is still construction work going on at Marine Street in Manhattan Beach and crews are working their way south.

D. Capital Projects Status Report

Chair Bronowski commented that this is a written report. Chair Bronowski commented that she would like a report on the City of L.A. taking over Venice Beach. Mr. Kreimann stated that DBH has completed the agreement with the Port of Long Beach and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the dredging project. Mr. Kreimann said DBH was successful in linking the dredging project of Marina del Rey and the renourishment of Redondo Beach together and the Board letter should be filled by mid-November. Commissioner Dagit asked if the commission could get a report about how the County is dealing with the sea level rise. Mr. Kreimann said the County has not done any planning on this. Commissioner Dagit said Long Beach has a study and the Pacific Institute in San Francisco has reviewed infrastructure of the entire California coastline, and these would be helpful places to start.

E. Lifeguard Report

Chief Frazer thanked Mr. Kreimann for his report and stated that the berms were very important. Chief Frazer said this week there was seven foot tides, and this is dangerous. Chief Frazer said one of the lifeguards of 55 years, also an educator and legend in the San Pedro area, was honored by San Pedro. He is the first lifeguard to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. On October 20th the entire County was involved in the "Golden Guardian", which was an earthquake preparedness drill. The same day there was a tsunami taskforce meeting with the different agencies involved outlining the roles of everybody in the event of a major tsunami. Chief Frazer said Pongo boats have been coming ashore, there have been 4 or 5 the last couple of months smuggling drugs or illegal aliens.

Chief Frazer stated that Ford has offered to extend the contract on the vehicles for two more years to donate the 45 vehicles and extend the bumper to bumper warranty for two more years. Chief Frazer mentioned that last week one of their retired Captains passed away, Conrad Liberty, who worked for the County for close to forty years. Chief Frazer requested to adjourn in his honor. Commissioner Jennings stated that there had been a presentation made to them several years ago regarding tsunamis and asked if there was an update. Chief Frazer said that since that presentation there had been two tsunamis generated from earthquakes. There was about \$1 million worth of damage done in the Marina. The surge lasted for about 12 hours, and the piers were closed.

Commissioner Jennings asked for an update on the MOU between Santa Monica Bay Restoration and DBH.

F. Dockweiler Youth Center Usage Report

Mrs. Rodriquez reported that due to budget curtailments the WATER Program has been cutback. Youth Coordinators have been cut from two to one. Camps held in the summer have been cut. Right now DBH is concentrating on Ocean Safety Days, one day programs bringing out kids from all five Supervisorial Districts. The lifeguards have determined that the beach in front of the DYC is too dangerous to use for youth water activities. Commissioner Dagit asked if the lifeguards were aware of this danger when the DYC was being planned. Chief Frazer said the lifeguards had been involved and specifically picked this location because of safety issues and parking accessibility. Chief Frazer said this needs to be revisited and the lifeguards that said that were wrong. Chair Bronowski asked if the DYC could be bid for permit to someone who could bring in more kids and run the center since DBH does not have the staff. Mr. Kreimann said the reality is the funding is not there, but there are plans to bring back summer camps and other programs depending on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bronowski adjourned the meeting in memory of Conrad Liberty.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m. at Burton Chace Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl McGee
Commission Secretary