



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**February 16, 2011**

**Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa St.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bullock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Paul Bullock, Lee Moldaver, Danielle De Smeth, Natasha Lohmus, Leanne French (5:35)

Committee members absent: Betsy Weber

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Michael Self, Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Assistant Public Works Director Pat Kelly, Project Planner Jessica Grant, Project Engineer Tom Conti

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 19, 2011.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,000,290 from the California Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program for the construction of Phase One of the Mission Creek Fish Passage Project at the Caltrans Channels, and that staff are working to complete permitting and environmental review in order to break ground by the beginning of July.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Benson reported that a Budget Subcommittee meeting was held January 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the approach to the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget. No major initiatives or

changes are expected in the next two years; Transient Occupancy Tax revenues are up slightly; and there will be one additional Subcommittee meeting in March, with an additional meeting in April if necessary. The City's Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget will be presented to City Council April 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Creeks Division's proposed budget will be presented in detail to the Committee at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Ms. French arrived at 5:35 p.m.**

### **CHAIR SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Benson suggested that the Education/Outreach Subcommittee be dissolved as it is not currently needed; and that the Watershed Subcommittee and Budget Subcommittee be left intact.

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/De Smeth to dissolve the Education/Outreach Subcommittee.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bullock, Mr. Moldaver, and Ms. Weber were appointed to the Budget Subcommittee.

Ms. De Smeth was appointed to the Watershed Subcommittee.

No one was appointed as liaison to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee.

Ms. French was appointed as liaison to the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Design Committee.

## **8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **a. Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Lagoon Restoration Plan**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Lagoon Restoration Plan, and Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, Monitoring and Management Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – February 2011

Power Point Presentation – February 2011

Speakers: Jessica Grant, Project Planner

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding whether the sandbags will be removed and the area landscaped; if breaching of the sandbar would be included in long term maintenance; whether consideration was made for gradual increase of sea level; and since the replacement of Cabrillo Bridge is expected to take two years, would traffic be maintained in both directions at all times.

Ms. Grant reported that the sandbags fall within the project area and will be removed and replaced with rock revetment and landscaping; that regarding sea level increases, the current survey is being used as it stands, however it is recognized that that plans will need to be flexible as to the changing footprint and will be reassessed throughout the construction and maintenance time period.

Mr. Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer, reported that according to the wording in the permit from the Coastal Commission, the sandbar will not be breached as part of this project; that during the course of construction to replace Cabrillo Bridge permit requirements limit when work can be done, and the bridge will need to be rebuilt one side at a time; and, that traffic will be maintained in both directions.

Ms. Grant noted that the full Lagoon Restoration Plan is available online.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

**b. Sycamore Creek Widening Project**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Sycamore Creek Widening Project.

Documents:

Staff Report – February 2011

Power Point Presentation – February 2011

Speakers: Jessica Grant, Project Planner

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding whether the risk of flood due to fires decreases over time; whether the plan includes removal of structures built along the creek; whether the project takes place in a portion of the creek with a concrete or natural bottom; and, whether wildlife populations would be positively affected by this project.

Ms. Grant reported that the risk of flood after fire lessons dependent on the amount of time it takes for the vegetation to establish, and that it would

take a while for vegetation to reestablish to the thickness prior to the most recent fires; and that there are currently structures on adjacent land which will be removed, as well as a driveway which previously had an encroachment permit which has now been terminated.

Mr. Kelly reported that although the project includes mostly natural ground within the creek bed, there is a concrete culvert which will be removed from under the Punta Gorda Bridge during the second phase of the project; and, that the plans call for a 60 foot wide riparian pathway, including widening the creek bed and 2 to 1 slopes to meet the restoration plan for the creek.

Ms. Lohmus stated that regarding the wildlife in Sycamore Creek, there is debate as to whether Steelhead are present; and, although tidewater goby are present in the East Beach area, she is unsure whether they make their way into this reach of the creek .

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Lohmus to adjourn.

Chair Bullock adjourned the meeting at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager