



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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**November 12, 2014**

**David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Danielle De Smeth called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Danielle De Smeth, Betsy Weber, LeeAnne French,  
James Hawkins

Committee members absent: Natasha Lohmus, Lee Moldaver, Paul Bullock

Liaison members present:

Liaison members absent: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Heaton, Planning  
Commissioner June Pujo, Council Member Gregg Hart

Staff present: Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Division Manager Cameron Benson,  
Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Supervisor George Johnson,  
Creeks Outreach Coordinator Liz Smith

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee Members French/Hawkins to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of  
October 15, 2014.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0. (Bullock absent, Lohmus absent, Moldaver absent)

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Goolsby recommended the Creeks Division consider bike paths along the creek  
banks.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**a. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Creeks Division's education and  
outreach program.

Documents:

Staff Report – November 2014

Speakers:

Liz Smith, Creeks Education and Outreach Coordinator

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding whether the videos presented are also available in Spanish; and, when Creek Week 2015 will occur.

Ms. Smith reported that all the videos are available in Spanish on the YouTube page; and, that Creek week begins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September, which coincides with Coastal Cleanup Day.

**b. MID ARROYO BURRO RESTORATION PROJECT**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the feasibility report and conceptual designs for the Mid-Arroyo Restoration Project and provide a recommendation on continuing further project development.

Documents:

Staff Report – November 2014

Speakers:

George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the upstream area of the project, updates on a potential development project adjacent to the creek, potential impact construction would have on project, whether Caltrans had been consulted about modifying the culvert, the timeline on the design study, moving forward before knowing what development project might be approved on the adjacent lot, if the development project would be approved before additional funds become available in July, where the top of bank setback is measured from, where other areas in the City creeks contain concrete that could be removed, community enjoyment of these kind of projects, if the committee were to recommend continuing the project what would be the estimated timeline for further project development; and, what can the Committee do as far as encouraging setbacks be required for any on the potential development project near the creek.

Mr. Johnson reported that Arroyo Burro bridge and the confluence of Arroyo Burro Creek and San Roque Creek are directly above the project site, there is an application in conceptual review for a project on the adjacent lot, the Creeks

Division has recommended a 50 foot setback for the structures on the adjacent property, the Creeks Division project could be significantly impacted and maybe infeasible if lesser setbacks were approved, Caltrans was not consulted but likely would not be removing the culvert at this time due to cost, funds for additional design work will be available in fiscal year 2015, County Flood control recommends 50 feet setbacks as noted in the General Plan, approval of any project on the adjacent lot depends on the applicant and the land development process, setback is measured from top of bank, additional locations where concrete may be removed are downstream in Mission Creek near the train station, Las Positas Creek near Las Positas Road, Arroyo Honda (asphalt), and MC at the Caltrans Channel, the restoration project proposed for Las Positas Creek includes a multipurpose path and trail improvements, once approved to go forward, this project would be funded and ready to begin construction in 6 years; and, the Committee could recommend a 50 foot setback be considered in their recommendation.

Rick Frickman Urban Creeks Council spoke in support of the Creeks Division project and against an adjacent development project.

Je Goolsby commented that the creeks are a major asset to the city, and recommended declaring eminent domain so the Creeks could be widened within the city.

Motion:

Committee members French/Hawkins to recommend that the Creeks Division continue further project development on the Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration Project including a recommendation of a 50 foot setback for any development on the adjacent properties.

Voice vote 4/0. (Bullock absent, Lohmus absent, Moldaver absent)

## ADJOURNMENT

Weber/Hawkins to adjourn.

Ms DeSmeth adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager