

DATE ISSUED: July 9, 2003 REPORT NO. 03-146

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee
Agenda of July 16, 2003

SUBJECT: Approval of Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee Members

REFERENCE: Manager's Report No. 03-082, dated April 30, 2003

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the City Council Natural Resources and Culture Committee approve the proposed membership of the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee within the structure approved at the April 30, 2003 NR&C meeting?

Manager's Recommendation – Approve the recommended membership for the 20-member Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee within the following structure as approved at the April 30, 2003 NR&C meeting:

City of San Diego: 8 senior-level department representatives (with field staff as needed) from Park & Recreation; Engineering & Capital Projects; Metro Wastewater; Water, Transportation-Streets, General Services-Storm Water; Planning-MSCP; and Development Services-EAS.
California Department of Fish and Game: 1 representative
Regional Water Quality Control Board: 1 representative
SDG&E: 1 representative
Community Planning Groups: 2 representatives
Members at-Large: 2 representatives
Environmental Organizations: 2 representatives
Recreational Organizations: 1 representative
Disabled Community: 1 representative
Building Industry: 1 representative

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 2000, the Natural Resources and Culture (NR&C) Committee authorized the creation of a citizen task force to assist in the development of city-wide policies for operating, maintaining, and accessing the sewer collection system, while protecting environmental health and public safety, and eliminating or minimizing impacts to San Diego's urban canyons. On March 28, 2001, the Citywide Canyon Sewer Maintenance Task Force presented their final report and proposed policies and recommendations to the NR&C Committee. On July 18, 2001, City staff presented recommendations to the NR&C Committee based on the Canyon Sewer Maintenance Task Force Report. At the July 18 meeting, the NR&C Committee: 1) adopted the City Manager's recommendations to create a new open space division within Park and Recreation; 2) approved two new Council Policies, 400-14 Planning for *Redirection of Sewage Discharge Away from Canyons and Other Environmentally Sensitive Lands*, and, 400-13 Planning for *Management of Sewer Facilities Located in Canyons and other Environmentally Sensitive Lands*; and 3) directed the City Manager to return to the NR&C Committee with an implementation strategy.

On April 30, 2003, City staff presented a progress report on implementation of the Canyon Sewer Task Force recommendations, and a proposed structure for an Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee to NR&C. The City Manager proposed that Committee representatives be appointed by the City Manager through recommendations from their respective departments, agencies or organizations, or based on previous experience and interest in urban canyon open space issues.

At the April 30, 2003 meeting, NR&C took the following actions:

1. Approved the City Manager's recommendations with the following amendments: 1) added two at-large positions and a position representing the disabled community; 2) eliminated the business representative category; and 3) requested City staff members be added to the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee with experience in canyon-related issues.
2. Directed that the Natural Resources and Culture Committee approve the structure (membership) of the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee at a future meeting.
3. Directed the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee to give semi-annual updates to the NR&C Committee.
4. Directed the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee to properly notice meetings following Brown Act regulations.

DISCUSSION

The following provides a summary of progress made on the NR&C Committee direction as provided at the April 30, 2003 meeting.

Park and Recreation Open Space staff drafted and sent letters to applicable City Departments, Public Agencies, Community Planning Groups, Environmental Groups and former Canyon Sewer Task Force members asking for appointments or letters of interest for serving on the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee. For City Departments and Public Agencies, appointments by Department Directors were requested. Qualifications for members as enumerated in the letter included prior experience working with urban canyon issues such as native plant habitats, environmentally sensitive lands, erosion control, restoration and revegetation, access and multi-use trails, or sewer function and design. Potential Advisory Committee members were advised they should be available to meet on a monthly basis, for approximately 1 ½ hours in duration, on a weekday sometime between the hours of 3:30-6pm at the Metropolitan Wastewater Operations Center Auditorium in Kearny Mesa.

A total of 15 letters of interest were received for the public positions. Letters of interest and any other materials provided were reviewed by City staff for open space or canyon-related experience, community or organizational affiliations, and geographic diversity.

Based on this review process, staff recommends that the following Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee members be approved:

Community Planning Groups (2 representatives selected by the Community Planners Committee

Chair; 4 letters received):

Steve Laub, College Area Community Council, President

Experience: former Canyon Sewer Task Force member; former SANDAG Least Bell's Vireo Task Force member; has participated in preparation of sewer construction plans.

Don Wetzel, Linda Vista Community Planning Committee, Vice Chair

Experience: member of the Tecolote Canyon Advisory Committee; leads environmentally oriented educational walks for the public at Tri-Canyon and Mission Trails Regional Park.

Environmental Organizations (2 representatives; 3 letters received)

Sierra Club: Eric Bowlby, Sierra Club Campaign Coordinator

Experience: former Canyon Sewer Task Force member; established canyon "Friends" groups and Canyon Watchers volunteer group; involved with the Chollas Creek Enhancement Project.

California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter: Carrie Schneider, President

Experience: former member of the Canyon Sewer Task Force (Environmental Systems Subcommittee Chair); Sierra Club Canyon Coalition, Subcommittee Chair; Friends of Switzer Canyon, Chair.

Recreational Organizations (1 representative; 1 letter received)

San Diego Mountain Bike Association: John Holloway, Landscape Architect and Planner
Experience: San Diego County Trails Council Board of Directors; San Diego Mountain Bike Association Board of Directors/Technical Advisor; participated on City of San Diego Park & Rec. Dog Off Leash Area Advisory Board; volunteer trail work at Black Mountain Park; volunteer at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Mtn. Bike Assistance Unit.

Members at-large (2 representatives; 4 letters received)

Victoria Touchstone, Contract Planner for the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge and the South San Diego Bay Unit of the San Diego Wildlife Refuge
Experience: former member of the Canyon Sewer Task Force; Black Mountain CAC member; Council Policy 600-23 (Open Space Preservation and Maintenance) revision CAC member; City of San Diego Community Advisory Board member; Environmental Planner for the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (1991-2000).

Vicki Granowitz

Experience: former member of the Canyon Sewer Task Force (Redirection of Flow Subcommittee Chair); Switzer Canyon Task Force member; Friends of Switzer Canyon member; Sierra Club Canyon Campaign Steering Committee; Consultant Selection Panel member for Upgrades to Specific Canyon Trunk Sewer Group 3.

Building Industry Association (1 representative appointed)

Matthew Adams

Director of Governmental Relations, BIA; former member of the Canyon Sewer Task Force;

Disabled Community (1 representative; 2 letters received)

Bonnie Hough, MD, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Co-Chair

Experience: founding member of Friends of Dove Canyon; assist with environmental education at Taft Middle School; served on The First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego Environmental Task Force and organized field trips and native plant presentations; trained by the National Wildlife Federation as a Habitat Steward; led children in establishing a Backyard Wildlife Habitat garden using all native plants.

Agencies (3 representatives appointed)

California Fish and Game Department: Libby Lucas, Environmental Scientist
Regional Water Quality Control Board: Stacey Baczkowski, Environmental Scientist
San Diego Gas and Electric: Jeff Sykes, Land Manager

City Departments (8 representatives appointed, plus field staff as needed)

Development Services-Environmental Analysis Section: Eileen Lower, Senior Planner
Engineering and Capital Projects: Dick Rol, Senior Environmental Planner
General Services-Storm Water Pollution Prevention: Drew Kleis, Storm Water Specialist
Metropolitan Wastewater-Wastewater Collection: Chris Toth, Deputy Director
Park and Recreation-Open Space: Ann Hix, Deputy Director
Planning-MSCP: Jeanne Krosch, Senior Planner
Transportation/Streets: Mauro Garcia, Assistant Deputy Director
Water: Bob Collins, Program Manager

Note: Ann Hix (Park and Recreation-Open Space) will serve as the Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee Chair. As requested, appropriate field staff will attend meetings as required.

ALTERNATIVES

Consider different Committee members, or do not form an advisory committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Oppenheim, Director
Park and Recreation Department

Scott Tulloch, Director
Metropolitan Wastewater Department

Approved: Bruce Herring,
Deputy City Manager

Approved: Richard Mendes,
D e p u t y C i t y
Manager/Utilities General
Manager