

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

2950 Peralta Oaks Court

Oakland, CA

Wednesday November 18, 2009

12:45 – 2:45 pm, Board Room

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

12:30 Lunch for Committee Members

AGENDA

STATUS	TIME	ITEM	STAFF
(I)	12:45	Report on Remediation and Cultural Resource Preservation Actions at Brushy Peak	(Anderson/Wiese)
(I)	1:30	Status of Weed/Invasive Plants Management In the District	(Brownfield/Amme)
(D)	2:15	Public Comment	
(R)		Recommendation for Future Board Consideration	
(I)		Information	
(D)		Discussion	

Board Natural and Cultural Resources Committee Members:
John Sutter, Chair; Beverly Lane; Whitney Dotson; Carol Severin, Alternate
Mike Anderson, Staff Coordinator

Distribution/Agenda
Only

Pete Alexander
David Amme
Yolande Barial
L. Daniel Levy
Laura Baker
Judi Bank
Doug Bell
Bruce Beyaert
Steve Bobzien
Dave Collins
Denise Defreese
Di Rosario
Sharon Corkin
Afton Crooks
Bob Stagnaro
John Escobar
Valerie Fischer Gates

Neal Fujita
Willie Grangoff
Rich Guarienti
Stana Hearne
Robert Herrick
Robert Hines
Eddie Jansen
Ralph Kanz
Anne Kassebaum
Jack Kenny
William McClung
Mike Moran
Brad Olson
Don Osborne

Joe Prokes
Rick Parmer
Peter Rauch
Dave Riensche
Ted Radke
Ted Stroll
Ted Radosevich
Jessica Sheppard
Doug Siden
Carol Victor
Jon Walton
Ayn Wieskamp
Robert Wills
R. Felzer

Distribution/Packet

Norman Laforce
Alan Pulido
Brian Wiese

AGENDA SUMMARY

I. I. Report on Remediation and Cultural Resource Preservation Actions at Brushy Peak (Anderson/Wiese)

Staff will update the committee on the recent actions taken at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve to mitigate damage to a bedrock mortar along the alignment of the Brushy Peak Loop Trail, as well as other cultural resource stewardship efforts occurring and planned for Brushy Peak Preserve.

On July 31, 2009, a letter was sent by Park District staff to the Army Corps of Engineers, the permitting authority for the trail project, notifying them of the District's intent to cover a bedrock mortar discovered within the tread of the Brushy Peak Loop Trail, to protect it from damage. At the same time, other agencies including the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), the Native American Heritage Commission, as well as interested Native American stakeholders were notified. Prior to the issuance of this letter, staff had consulted several times with advocates Jakki Kehl and Greg Castro, and the Native American Heritage Commission, including an on-site meeting with hired archaeologist Jeffrey Fentress to advise on the remediation of this damaged mortar.

The remediation work was undertaken in accordance with OHP guidelines and the advice of the District's archaeological consultant. The subject mortar was capped with another boulder and native soil to protect it from further damage and trail wear. The project was completed in mid-October of this year.

With the completion of this work, staff feels that the District has adequately protected the mortar from further damage. However, in recognition of the value of this area as a cultural resource, several additional steps are being taken by staff to insure proper management and protection of this area. The following related and follow-up actions have been initiated:

- The District has contracted with archaeologist Jeffrey Fentress to formally record Brushy Peak native American sites as a "Cultural District" and submit records to the Northwest Information Center
- Staff has provided information on previous Brushy Peak archaeological surveys to the Office of Historic Preservation.
- The District has employed three graduate student interns as part of the District's new Academic Internship program to assist in recording archaeological sites and updating information in the Cultural Site Atlas.
- Contacted the Native American Heritage Commission to request technical assistance in developing an ongoing consultation process.

However, a number of additional details remain to be discussed and resolved:

- Formulating recommendations for ongoing management and monitoring of cultural resources at Brushy Peak.
- The development of signage, brochures and other methods for interpretation of these resources.
- Determining how Indian representatives can play a constructive and meaningful role in this process.

2. Status of Weed/Invasive Plants Management in the District (Brownfield/Amme)

Managing weedy, invasive plant species on 100,000 acres of District parkland poses major challenges for District staff and resources. Weedy vegetation is a problem because of the buildup of hazardous fuel loads, constant invasion from adjacent, urbanizing areas and the ability of aggressive, exotic populations to disturb the balance of existing plant communities and threaten native populations and species of concern. Because the problem is so pervasive and the acreage to be managed is so large, the problem exceeds the District's ability to manage it comprehensively. The District must therefore set strategic priorities and target specific weed populations at certain locations.

Staff will discuss how priorities for invasive species management are set and carried out by the Wildland Vegetation and IPM programs and the Park Operations Department. They will also show how the success of these efforts over time is tracked by the GIS program. Finally, staff will discuss ongoing efforts to improve coordination between these programs, and to involve volunteers in community stewardship in the parks.