

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
NATURE PRESERVE QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM  
JANUARY 31, 2018**

The forum began at 6:05 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room, 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard.

**ATTENDANCE**

City of RPV: Cory Linder – Recreation and Parks Director  
Katie Lozano – Recreation and Parks Admin. Analyst/Open Space Manager  
Dave Pearce – Recreation and Parks Recreation Supervisor  
Irving Anaya – Community Development Associate Planner  
Sergeant Doug Shive – Lomita Sheriff Station  
Deputy Pablo Jimenez – Lomita Sheriff Station  
Deputy Kevin Kuwata – Lomita Sheriff Station  
PVPLC: Andrea Vona – Executive Director

Analyst Lozano thanked the group for attending and explained that the purpose of the Forum is to share information on Preserve projects and public use and to solicit public feedback. City and PVPLC staff introductions were made. There were approximately 14 members of the public in attendance.

**Preserve Maintenance**

Review of Active Habitat/Trail Projects/Unauthorized Spur Trail Closures: Director Vona reported on PVPLC habitat and trail maintenance activities including habitat restoration and weeding at Alta Vicente Reserve and weeding at Portuguese Bend Reserve. She shared a slide of the spur trail closures that have been untaken over the past two months. She also highlighted the recent trail crew and City staff/volunteer event to reopen Ishibashi Farm Trail and the planned work to repair Sandbox Trail. A photo of the new signage at Alta Vicente and Portuguese Bend Reserves was also shown, and that work was completed in December.

City Preserve Maintenance Report: Analyst Lozano reported that fuel modification projects were completed in the Ocean Trails and San Ramon Reserves. A view-restoration project was conducted in the Portuguese Bend Reserve along the upper portion of Burma Road. Sunset Trail in the Ocean Trails Reserve was repaired and re-opened on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Crown Castle utility company completed a fiber optic line installation in the Portuguese Bend Reserve. Trail Counter data for Portuguese Bend Reserve is showing an approximate average of 1,500 people a week entering at the Burma Road gate. A peak day was indicated by the counter showing 2,835 people (2,665 hikers and 170 mountain bikers) on New Year's Day.

*Public Comments:*

Sandy Valeri asked how the fire risk is managed in the Preserve.

Director Linder shared that the City conducts and coordinates fuel modification, maintains fire roads/access, and is in close contact with the Fire Department. He also indicated that he

City is working on a policy for managing high fire risk days, and other extreme weather conditions. He also indicated that due to the Preserve's proximity to homes, the fire strategy is to suppress immediately. Controlled burns are not used by the City at this time.

Eva Cicoria added that the Volunteer Trail Watch actively watches for smoking activity in the Preserve, and engages violators.

Randy Harwood asked for clarified about vaping under the no smoking ordinance. It was clarified by the Preserve Deputies that vaping is prohibited in the Preserve.

Director Vona added that there are great resources available with LA County under their "Ready Set Go" campaign and that we are in a wildland urban interface.

Pam Emch asked if the public had access to the GPS data the City collects to monitor landslide movement. Analyst Lozano is looking into the question.

### **Preserve Operations**

**Preserve Enforcement Report:** Deputies Jimenez and Kuwata reported out on 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2017 activities including trends, violations, and citations issued, as well as more recent activity. Their quarterly report was made available.

**Open Space Management (OSM) Report:** Recreation Supervisor Dave Pearce gave a PowerPoint presentation on OSM activities over the last quarter, including public contacts, violation trends, public outreach, and maintenance. The Preserve Staff encountered 8,449 people in the Preserve including 7,088 hikers, 923 dog walkers, 422 mountain bikers, and 16 equestrians. The Preserve Staff dealt with 317 public-use issues including 119 dogs off leash and 198 people off trail/on a closed trail.

The Preserve Staff completed a number of maintenance projects in the Preserve including closing Cave Trail in Abalone Cove Reserve, applying tanglefoot gel to cover tree carvings along Eucalyptus Trail in Filiorum Reserve, directed volunteers in beach clean-ups at Pelican Cove (Vicente Bluffs Reserve) and in Ocean Trails Reserve, trail counter installation on Rattlesnake Trail in the Filiorum Reserve, and a joint volunteer effort with the PVPLC Trail Crew to repair Ishibashi Farm Trail resulting in its full re-opening on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Preserve Staff set up two information booths at the Burma Road gate in the Portuguese Bend Reserve during the past quarter: October 11<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>. Of the 475 patrons that visited the booth, 49 people completed surveys.

**Review of Volunteer Trail Watch (VTW) Reports:** Director Vona provided a report on VTW activities for the previous quarter that included a summary of their reports and activities in the Preserve. She also shared that 20 new volunteers recently joined the trail watchers.

**Projects in the Preserve:** Analyst Lozano provided information on the upcoming landslide monitoring (GPS survey) project slated to start in February; road maintenance is anticipated for certain roads in the Preserve starting in late spring; the coastal bluff top fencing project abutting parts of the Preserve will continue, and the California state grant for monument

signage of \$400,000 is pending a March notification.

*Public Comments:*

Sandy Valeri discussed her experience casually and successfully educating the public on equestrians in the Preserve, and she expressed interest in volunteering more formally. She recommended volunteer opportunities be sent out through the City's listserv mechanism. She also shared that Preserve visitors often trespass in the private Portuguese Bend Community in an effort to reach the beach.

Discussion ensued on educating the public on the best and safest way to access the beach. City staff will follow up on this matter.

**Preserve Interpretive Activities/Other**

PVPLC-led Interpretive Activities: Director Vona reported on upcoming PVPLC hikes and volunteer events.

Los Serenos Docent/City-led Interpretive Activities: Analyst Lozano reported on upcoming City hikes and volunteer activities.

NCCP Update: Analyst Lozano reported that the City, PVPLC, and the Wildlife Agencies are finalizing Section 5 (Minimization Measures) and Section 9 (Management and Trails). The City is also analyzing the environment documents. The final documents will be circulated for 60 days for public review. Approval of the NCCP by City Council is tentatively scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Next Public Forum: Analyst Lozano reported that the next Public Forum will be April 18<sup>th</sup> and that the calendar for the remainder of the year is on the City's Preserve webpage, and it includes July 18<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup> meetings.

*Public Comments/Questions*

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.