

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES**  
**NATURE PRESERVE QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM**  
**October 14, 2019**

The forum began at 6:37 p.m. in Hesse Park McTaggart Hall.

**ATTENDANCE**

City of RPV: Ara Mihranian – Director, Community Development Department  
Irving Anaya, Associate Planner, Community Development Department  
Cory Linder – Director, Recreation & Parks Department  
Katie Lozano – Recreation & Parks Administrative Analyst/Open Space  
Manager  
Dave Pearce – Recreation Supervisor/Open Space Management  
PVPLC: Adrienne Mohan – Executive Director

Director Mihranian thanked the group for attending and explained that while the purpose of the Forum is to share information on Preserve projects and public use and to solicit public feedback, this particular meeting is dedicated to public engagement on the City's draft Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) prior to the City Council consideration of the document at the October 29, 2019 City Council meeting. City and PVPLC staff introductions were made. Twelve guests were in attendance in the audience.

**NCCP Update**

Manager Lozano presented a slide show summarizing the purpose, history, impacts, and current status of the NCCP/HCP under consideration for adoption in the City. The plan is a part of a permit application process for public and private projects including streamlining 17 public projects while being consistent with CEQA compliance. Public access to the PV Nature Preserve is conditionally approved via this plan with public use regulated by the NCCP/HCP impact avoidance & minimization measures along with the Public Use Master Plan, the Preserve Trails Plan and the City Municipal Code.

Executive Director Mohan presented slides showing the perspective of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's role regarding the NCCP/HCP.

*Public Comments/Questions:*

*Eva Cicoria asked if there is a list available that indicates what trails will allow motorized vehicles.*

Manager Lozano answered that the list will be created as part of the Preserve Access Protocol and will be available 90 days after the NCCP/HCP is adopted.

*Eva Cicoria asked if the Preserve Access Protocol would be considered in a public forum and if*

*vehicle access will be granted for the entire length of a trail if only part of it is needed by utility companies.*

Manager Lozano answered that Preserve Access Protocol would be presented for public input at the quarterly Preserve Public Forums and would ultimately be presented to the City Council in a public meeting for adoption. She shared that while particular access had not been established yet, the overriding goal of the Preserve Access Protocol in minimization of negative impacts to habitat.

*Jim York complimented the City and PVPLC for their fire hazard reduction efforts in removing acacia trees from the Preserve. He stated that the City's answers to the public comments to the NCCP/HCP posted on the federal register are false and misleading, particularly items 67, 94, and 110. He states that he is disappointed in the PVPLC and that he feels the NCCP/HCP is not ready to go before the City Council. He wonders why he has to donate 40 acres of property to the City in order to build one house, stating that is unfair and constitutes stealing.*

Director Mihranian stated that the City's response to the situation described is in line with proper procedure, that York's situation did not meet the mitigation criteria for an exception and that even without the NCCP/HCP, the York property needs to meet certain restrictions.

### **Preserve Projects**

#### **Manager Lozano presented Current and Upcoming City Projects:**

- Gates / Fencing at Burma Rd. and Rattlesnake Trailheads – Bids for construction are due October 15th with work expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- Landslide Feasibility Study Underway – Final engineering plans are being prepared.
- Fuel Modification / Fire Safety – Expanded Wildfire Prevention Efforts are underway in reviewing fuel modification zones.
- Special Event Permit / Preserve Hiking Policy – No hikes over 20 people allowed with an exemption category for mission-aligned groups & City-sponsored events. An education/enforcement campaign is underway.

#### **Director Mohan presented Current and Upcoming Projects for PVPLC:**

- Habitat Restoration - Staff and volunteers continue weeding efforts at Alta Vicente and Portuguese Bend Reserves. Planting natives will start in Abalone Cove Reserve this fall. There are ongoing Adopt-a-Plot projects as well. Acacia removal has been completed along Vanderlip Trail and Narcissa Drive with more removals planned for Ishibashi Trail.
- Trail Crew and Rapid Response Projects – Ongoing.

#### **Public Comments/Questions:**

*Eva Cicoria asked where the dirt came from to fill in the erosion gully on lower Peppertree Trail. Was was the composition of the dirt utilized, since she observed bits of tar mixed in with this new layer of soil on Peppertree Trail?*

Analyst Lozano responded that the dirt source was compliant with the Habitat Impact Avoidance Measures of the NCCP/HCP and that she would inquire from Public Works.

*Cindy Akiyama asked about the wildfire prevention efforts. Will the dry mustard plants in the Filiorum Reserve be removed?*

Analyst Lozano answered that Public Works conducts fuel modification in a zone within 200 feet from structures. Director Mohan responded that there are no plans to remove all mustard from the Preserve.

### **Preserve Operations**

**Preserve Enforcement Report:** Manager Lozano announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report is being prepared and will be posted online.

**Open Space Management Staff Report:** Supervisor Pearce reported on public contacts and maintenance activity for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019.

*Public Comments/Questions:*

*Eva Cicoria asked about the gate / fencing ideas previously discussed for Forrestal Reserve. Are they on hold until trail alternatives are finalized?*

Director Linder responded that Preserve access is a separate issue than parking at Ladera Linda Community Center.

*Kurt Loheit asked a question in relation to Forrestal Reserve and Pirate Trailhead. What does 'trail alternatives' mean?*

Director Linder answered that the phrase refers to potential alternatives to trailhead location.

### **Other**

**Upcoming City Council Agenda Items** – Analyst Lozano provided information on the following items:

- Consideration of NCCP/HCP Adoption on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>
- Forrestal / Pirate Tr. Alternatives considered on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Public Comments/Questions:*

None.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**