



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

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<b>DATE</b>	July 31, 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting May 10, 2024
<b>DIVISION</b>	Acquisition, Stewardship, and Development
<b>FROM</b>	Yulie Padmore, Recording Clerk Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend approval of the minutes for the Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting of May 10, 2024.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The May 10, 2024, Board Natural & Cultural Resources Committee meeting was held in-person and via video conference pursuant to the Brown Act, as amended by AB 2449.

Members of the public can watch the meeting on the Park District's website here:  
<https://www.ebparks.org/calendar/public-meetings>

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Executive Assistant Yulie Padmore conducted a roll call. Present were the following Directors and staff:

Committee: Chair Colin Coffey, Director John Mercurio, and Director Dennis Waespi

Staff: Ken Wysocki, Jason Rosenberg, Yulie Padmore, Matt Graul, Joseph Sullivan, Brenda Montano, Kristen Van Dam, Jordan Traverso, Anja Brey

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of the Minutes for the NCRC Meeting August 16, 2023
- b. Approval of the Minutes for the NCRC Meeting November 29, 2023

## **MOTION**

Director Mercurio moved and Director Waespi seconded a motion to approve the August 16, 2023 and November 29, 2023 Natural & Cultural Resources Committee Meeting minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

### **4. Action items**

None.

### **5. Informational Items**

#### **a. Harmful Algal Blooms and Lake Management**

Fisheries Program Manager Joe Sullivan and Acting Ecological Services Coordinator Anja Brey presented a PowerPoint providing an overview of the lakes and reservoirs; types of lake uses; lakes and reservoirs age and aquatic ecological succession; issues from harmful algal blooms (HABs); monitoring for HABs; cyanobacteria ground observations, sampling, testing, and advisory signage; fish tissue testing, monthly nutrients monitoring and real-time water quality monitoring at Lake Anza and Lake Temescal; management practices for HABs; and future reservoir management. Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul clarified the cost of dredging Lake Temescal due to trucking costs.

Chair Coffey suggested including swim areas in the Next Century Plan.

In response to Director Mercurio, Manager Sullivan confirmed that toxins were found in flowing water and in all Park District lakes. He clarified that algal blooms did not always create toxins and discussed the spillway from Lake Temescal. Chief Graul discussed issues with releasing sediment into the Bay and the proposal to prevent future sedimentation. Director Mercurio suggested a potential creek and lagoon at Lake Temescal and the need to provide recreational swimming.

Director Waespi discussed chlorination of the lagoons. Chief Graul confirmed that the lagoons were chlorinated and disconnected from natural hydrology. Director Waespi stated Lake Temescal and Jewel Lake needed to be swimmable. He discussed the use of sediment ponds. Chief Graul discussed the costs of dredging and elimination of sediment. He discussed increased toxins due to aging reservoirs, increasing nutrients and climate change. He explained that occasional sewage spills were factors, but sediments were the primary driver. He stated chlorine was not allowed for treatment in the lakes and reservoirs and he was not aware of dog deaths nor human illness.

Chair Coffey mentioned the upcoming prioritization workshop on June 7, 2024, and continual need to consider swimming facilities. He suggested management inform the Board of the needs and cost benefit of preserving swim facilities. He discussed efforts to study Jewel Lake.

Director Mercurio requested implementable options, including costs.

## **b. Archives Update: 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Martin J. Cooney Photography**

Archives Program Supervisor Brenda Montano thanked those involved in the Archives; creation of the Department in 2022; efforts to show the archives; and inclusion of stories and Martin J. Cooney photographs on the website as part of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Director Mercurio commended staff on posting the collections on the website. Supervisor Montano discussed future story maps.

In response to Director Waespi, Supervisor Montano explained the location on the website. Director Waespi suggested reaching out via social media for the public to provide photographs. Chief of Communications Jordan Traverso discussed the content ready for projects but limited staff.

In response to Chair Coffey, Supervisor Montano stated she would provide a history of the Park District exhibit at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

## **c. Oak Habitat Restoration in East Bay Hills**

Ecological Services Coordinator Kristen Van Dam presented a PowerPoint outlining the importance of Oak woodland ecosystems; challenges and threats; conservation and restoration efforts; Scenic Post Fire restoration; and overarching goals.

Director Waespi asked about potential fires. Coordinator Van Dam discussed the goal to make the landscape resilient to fire; sudden Oak death; and impact of climate and extreme events on Oaks and other varieties.

In response to Director Mercurio, Coordinator Van Dam explained the use of Biochar in individual plantings.

Chair Coffey discussed the complicated relationship between grazing and Oaks. Coordinator Van Dam explained recruitment issues, due to cows eating the seedlings year after year. She explained that Bay trees were carriers of Sudden Oak Death.

Director Waespi confirmed that the California Oaks Foundation was still viable.

Chair Coffey expressed concern with the dead railroad trees at Carquinez Straight.

## **6. Announcements**

Director Mercurio discussed the May 10, 1869, driving of the golden spike in Utah.

Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development Ken Wysocki announced the next meeting on July 31, 2024.

Chair Coffey requested reviewing the potential agenda items prior to the next meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Coffey declared the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Yolande Barial Knight