



SONOMA COUNTY
**AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Thursday, May 24, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

***SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

Meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

AGENDA

1. **Public Comment** - Comments on items not listed on the agenda
(*Time is limited to 3 minutes per person/item*)
2. **Approval of Minutes** [Attachment "A"] ***ACTION***
April 26, 2018
3. **General Manager's Report** ***INFORMATIONAL***
4. **Subcommittee Report Out** ***INFORMATIONAL***
 - Matching Grant Program
 - Agricultural
 - Vital Lands Initiative
5. **Regional Parks Challenges & Opportunities Presentation** [Attachment "B"] ***INFORMATIONAL***
Bert Whitaker, Director of Regional Parks
6. **Vital Lands Initiative** ***INFORMATIONAL***
Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager
7. **Overview of Project Evaluation Process** ***INFORMATIONAL***
Curtis Kendall, Acquisition Assistant
Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager
8. **Impacts of the October Fires to District-Protected Properties** ***INFORMATIONAL***
Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager
9. **Projects in Negotiation** [Attachment "C"] ***INFORMATIONAL***
10. **Announcements from Advisory Committee Members** ***INFORMATIONAL***
11. **Adjournment** Next Meeting: June 28, 2018

Future Meeting Topics
(subject to change)

6/28/18

Vital Lands Initiative – Implementation Plans

7/26/18

Summer Break

8/23/18

Matching Grant (Project Tour or Recommendations)

9/27/18

Fiscal Update

Matching Grant (Project Tour or Recommendations)

RCPP Projects

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires the agenda materials to be in an alternative format or requires an interpreter or other person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact Mariah Robson at (707) 565-7363, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Committee on a matter on the agenda will have an opportunity to speak. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Each person is usually granted 3 minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair.



Attachment "A"

***SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

April 26, 2018 MINUTES

5:06 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Don McEnhill	Bill Smith	Curt Nichols
John Nagle	Neysa Hinton	Halei Trowbridge
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Dell'Osso	Cary Fargo
Paul Martin	Evan Wiig	

Members Absent

Jan McFarland	David Cook	Doug Lipton
Eddie Smith	Tawny Tesconi	

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk; Sue Jackson, substitute Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Public Comment

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Duane DeWitt discussed Roseland Park and the Roseland neighborhood and said that he would like to be helpful as a conservationist, and not seen as adversarial, and for that reason the other neighbors did not attend the meeting this evening and sent Mr. DeWitt to represent them. Mr. DeWitt says the problem in Roseland is worse than ever, and that the Ag + Open Space understands this and he feels that they could be helpful to the City of Santa Rosa to make sure the conservation values are first and foremost. He and the neighbors of Roseland would like to keep the park in as natural an area as they possibly can.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the February 22, 2018 minutes. There were none, and John Nagle motioned to approve the minutes as they were. Don McEnhill seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with two abstentions.

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the March 22, 2018 joint meeting with the Fiscal Oversight Commission. There were none, and Steve Rabinowitsh motioned to approve the minutes as they were. Curt Nichols seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with three abstentions.

Bill Keene, General Manager, announced there would be one change to the agenda this evening. On item #6, Vital Lands Initiative, the original presenter, Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, could not attend, so Mr. Keene will be the presenter in her place.

General Manager's Report Out

- A new OpenRoad, episode will be aired on Sunday, May 6th at 6:30 pm on NBC Bay Area. This episode will discuss the impacts of the fires on our protected lands – Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve, Cresta/McCullough, and Glen Oaks Ranch. Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Planner and fire ecologist, joins Doug McConnell to discuss the fires, their impacts, and lessons learned.
- Ag + Open Space is actively recruiting another youth member for the Advisory Committee for the next school year from August 2018 through June 2019. Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, sent an email to the committee asking for help in the recruitment. The deadline is May 1, 2018 but position will stay open until filled. If there are any questions, you can contact Ms. Ricard.
- Ag + Open Space is sponsoring the Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative (SEEC) Day of the Child/Dia del Nino event. Environmental education organizations will host a variety of free events throughout the county to engage children with the outdoors such as hikes, crafts, and bird watching. This will take place on Sunday, April 29 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at various locations throughout Sonoma County. The Ag + Open Space properties that will host activities include the City of SR Farms (Laguna Environmental Center), the Steamer Landing Park (Friends of Petaluma River), and Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve (LandPaths).
- The Matching Grant Program application deadline is extended to June 6, 2018.
- Ag + Open Space is moving out the Board date for the Vital Lands Initiative to August 2018.
- The McCullough 2 acquisition will go to the Board on May 22, 2018 as well as the NASA Grant.
- There will be an event in July for opening the Jenner Headlands Preserve. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening. The soft opening will occur in July 2018 and then the grand opening in late July or August 2018.

Subcommittee Report Out

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

1. Matching Grant Program
2. Agriculture
3. Vital Lands Initiative

John Nagle, Agriculture Subcommittee Chair, reported out on their meeting. They focused on the Vital Lands Initiative. They will be forming an Ag Tech committee to focus on agricultural details, such as affirmative agricultural easements, the most important agricultural lands to protect, and collaborative work with agricultural corporations.

There was no update for Vital Lands Initiative as there were no meetings since the last Advisory Committee meeting.

Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, announced that the next subcommittee meeting will take place in mid-July or early August. She will schedule the meeting soon.

City of Santa Rosa Roseland Creek

Mr. Keene introduced this item as a follow up from last month's meeting regarding the Roseland Creek property. Last month we heard the Ag + Open Space staff and public's concerns. This evening the City of Santa Rosa reviewed the community planning process for the park and provided an overview of the draft master plan from 2010 to the present. Mr. Keene introduced Jason Nutt, City of Santa Rosa Interim Director of Recreation and Parks, and Jen Santos, City of Santa Rosa Deputy Director of Parks.

Ms. Santos gave a PowerPoint presentation on the property that included the history and map of the property and what the City owns. She also shared the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for the Roseland Creek Park.

Chair Dell'Osso opened the meeting for the members of the public and Advisory Committee members to discuss the presentation and ask questions of the City of Santa Rosa and Ag + Open Space staff. The Advisory Council asked that the District continue with its outreach to the citizens impacted by the project. There was also discussion about achieving balance between the need for places to recreate and the need for places to enjoy the land in its natural state.

Public Comment

Duane DeWitt spoke on behalf of Roseland Action and reported that the neighboring public is opposed to the City of Santa Rosa's approach to the Roseland Creek Park and the Master Plan. The public would like to keep the park as a natural, untouched preserve, and the City would like to create a recreation area.

In response to the public comment, Mr. Keene offered to host and facilitate a meeting, or a series of meetings, wherein the City of Santa Rosa and the neighboring public can discuss the issues, with the goal of reaching some level of consensus. The Advisory Committee encouraged the District to move forward on this action as described by Mr. Keene.

Vital Lands Initiative

Mr. Keene gave an update on the Vital Lands Initiative. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau asked that the Initiative go to the Board of Directors at a later date in order to hone in on the agricultural components in more detail. They would like a draft of the Initiative that is not so esoteric, but more detailed per components of the expenditure plan. The draft will go to the Board in September 2018. The final plan will go to the Board in October or November 2018.

Projects in Negotiations

No discussion about projects in negotiations.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

There were no announcements from the Advisory Committee members or members of the public.

Adjournment: 6:54 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: May 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary

REGIONAL PARKS SONOMA COUNTY

Fact Sheet

Sonoma County Regional Parks Have Grown, But Funding Has Not Kept Pace

Over 50 years Regional Parks have grown to over 11,000 acres and 150 miles of trails in 56 parks, open spaces and marinas. In the last ten years the park system has doubled, going from 5,648 acres to 11,071 acres. We now face critical shortfalls for maintenance, new park openings, fire recovery and the protection of natural resources. Currently, we do not have a dedicated funding source to support all of Sonoma County's parks.

One Option Under Consideration

Park staff have been discussing with local leaders a one-eighth cent sales tax (0.125%) collected countywide over 10 years. This long-term investment would provide a stable source of funding, with significant opportunities to further leverage grants, private funding, and state bonds (Prop 68).

Additional Sonoma County Regional Parks Funding Would:

- ✓ Maintain Parks, Trails & Open Spaces
- ✓ Help Protect Water Quality
- ✓ Reduce Risk of Future Wildfires
- ✓ Protect Wildlife Habitats & Fisheries
- ✓ Improve Access and Increase Attendance
- ✓ Support Local Neighborhood Parks & Recreation

Our Regional Parks and Open Spaces Help Us During and After the Fires

We saw the 860-acre Shiloh Ranch act as a buffer between the fire and Windsor, helping to slow the fire down long enough for crews to react and prevent its encroachment on the town.

About 2,600 acres of parklands were impacted by the fires. With some of our habitats naturally prepared for wildfires, it has led to some regrowth and fantastic flowering this spring in lighter fire areas. While other spots were severely damaged by the hottest fires and the fire fighting itself – it may take years for us to determine the full damage and recovery period.

In the aftermath, we see large numbers of residents coming to our parks for healing and restoration.



We are committed to seeing our Regional Parks play a vital role in the health, safety and economy of our county for decades to come. Residents love their parks – now as we recover, we know we can work together to improve our entire Sonoma County parks network for all to enjoy.

Revision date: 5/9/18

Learn More at SonomaCountyParks.org



REGIONAL PARKS SONOMA COUNTY

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Sonoma County Regional Parks considering placing a measure on the ballot?

Sonoma County Regional Parks has built one of the most diverse park systems in California. Fifty-six parks, trails and beaches attract 5 million annual visits to the Sonoma Coast, Russian River, Sonoma Valley and the county's other unique landscapes. Park attendance has increased 38 percent since 2010 and parkland has increased by 6,000 acres.

But funding has not kept pace with this growth. The measure under consideration would provide additional funding for Regional Parks and local city parks to address significant unmet needs and preserve the diversity and integrity of the system for future generations to enjoy.

What are the needs?

The funding needs of Sonoma County's parks are substantial. They include increasing costs to operate and maintain parks, protect natural resources, reduce wildfire risk, and open new parks to the public. Regional and city parks also struggle to meet growing demand for recreation, health, safety and education programs, including for our aging population. All of these needs affect our parks systems' abilities to deliver quality services to Sonoma County residents.

What is the proposed measure?

Voters in Sonoma County may be asked in the Nov. 6, 2018 general election to consider a one-eighth cent sales tax (0.125%) to support the Sonoma County Regional Parks and city parks system for 10 years. The tax would apply to all areas within Sonoma County and would generate an estimated \$11.5 million annually for improving and maintaining parks.

How much would the tax cost?

At 0.125%, the tax would add 3¢ to the cost of a \$25 bottle of wine and 12¢ to the cost of a \$100 restaurant meal.

How would the proposed measure help the Sonoma County Regional Parks?

If adopted by voters, two-thirds of the funds collected would be spent on Sonoma County Regional Parks, enabling Regional Parks to:

- Maintain Parks, Trails & Open Spaces
- Help Protect Water Quality
- Reduce Risk of Future Wildfires
- Protect Wildlife Habitats & Fisheries
- Improve Access and Increase Attendance
- Support Local Neighborhood Parks & Recreation

How would the measure benefit city parks?

If adopted by voters, one-third of all the money would be shared by Sonoma County's cities to maintain and improve city parks.

Individual cities would determine how best to prioritize their funding projects. Each city has a diversity of needs, as Regional Parks has learned through countywide outreach it began in 2015 and continues to conduct.

How would this make our parks safer?

Funds would be used to maintain parks and trails, restore parks impacted by fires, reduce fuels, address invasive plants, improve signs and maps for visitors, modernize facilities including restrooms, and maintain sports fields and recreation areas – all of which help make our parks safer.

How can we be sure the tax revenue would be spent on parks?

A Citizen's Oversight Committee would be appointed to regularly review how the tax revenue is spent and to ensure public transparency throughout the 10-year life of the measure. The measure would also require that the revenue not be used to reduce existing funding for parks and recreation.



Learn More at SonomaCountyParks.org

Would the sales tax apply to all areas of Sonoma County?

Yes, all jurisdictions within Sonoma County, including every city and unincorporated area, would see tax collected. The funds collected would be split among the Sonoma County Regional Parks system and the city parks. Two-thirds of the funds would go to the Regional Parks and one-third would go to city and neighborhood parks.

How would the funds be spent from the tax revenue?

The measure's expenditure plan designates revenue for specific needs within four categories. Each category would receive a percentage of the proposed sales tax revenues:

- Support for Local Neighborhood Parks, Recreation Needs and Fire Risk Reduction – 33.3%, estimated at \$38,300,000
- Protect Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat and Natural Resources in Sonoma County Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Preserves – 18.3%, est. \$21,110,000
- Investing in Maintenance, Safety and Recreation Services in Sonoma County Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Preserves – 25%, est. \$28,750,000
- Improve Access to Sonoma County Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Preserves – 23.4%, est. \$26,840,000

Would the proposed parks measure increase or affect the County's pension liability?

No, the pension liability for current employees and retirees is unrelated to this measure, and is based on preexisting assumptions about returns on investments and future health care costs. Passing such a measure would not affect the current pension liability. Any new employee hired due to this measure, or for any other reason, would be hired under the County's current pension plan with more conservative benefits designed to be financially sustainable in the future.

Would there be independent oversight of the funds raised?

Yes, the measure's legal language would establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee to provide transparency and ensure fiscal accountability. The Committee would review the receipt and expenditures of revenue generated by the parks measure and would do so in conjunction with Sonoma County's budget process. The Committee would produce annual reports and present them to the Board of Supervisors at public meetings. The Committee could make budget recommendations to the Board and City Councils regarding expenditures from the parks measure. All written reports from the Committee would be public records.

Who would pay the tax?

Anyone who buys a taxable good in Sonoma County would contribute to the tax revenue, regardless of where they live, including tourists and day visitors. Many taxable purchases are discretionary, according to county tax data, with the greatest taxable spending on wine, gas station purchases, construction-related purchases, and restaurant meals.

When did voters last consider a Sonoma County Parks measure?

Voters in Sonoma County's unincorporated areas in 2016 narrowly missed (65.1% voted yes) passing Measure J, which was a one-half cent (0.5%) sales tax in unincorporated areas only. If the proposed measure moves forward, it would go before voters in the cities as well as the unincorporated areas. It would be the first tax measure dedicated to our county's park maintenance and recreation needs, as well to our water quality and the continuing need to reduce fire risks.

How can I get more information?

The proposed measure's expenditure plan and ordinance are available on the Regional Parks website, SonomaCountyParks.org, and in Regional Parks' office, 2300 County Center Drive, Suite 120A, Santa Rosa. For questions and comments, contact Regional Parks at (707) 565-2041 or Parks@sonoma-county.org.



Project Status Chart
5/18/2018

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

PROJECT	Acreage (approximate)	Supervisory District	Acquisition Plan Category	Project Design	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
Arrowhead Ranch (Maas)	245	2	Farms & Ranches	x				On hold at request of owner
Cresta 3	46	1	Recreation & Education	x	x	x		Offer made
Donnell	909	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x	x			Appraisal process
Gloeckner-Turner Ranch	3,364	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			Appraisal process
Jacobsen Ranches	127	2	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x				CE under negotiation
Joseph Camozzi Dairy	403	2	Farms & Ranches	x				CE under negotiation
LaFranchi	1,189	4	Farms & Ranches	x				Initiating project
Lafranconi	211	5	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x				On hold at request of owner
Mattos Dairy	866	2	Farms & Ranches	x	x			FOC approved May 3, 2018
McCullough Phase 2	259	1	Recreation & Education	x	x			Under contract
Rips Redwoods	1,620	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x	x		Offer made
Sonoma Developmental Center 5 (Transfor	945	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside					Land protection proposal underway
Terrilinda Dairy	175	2	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x				On hold at request of owner
Weeks Ranch (Rasmason)	1,372	1	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			CE under negotiation
Wendle	47	1	Recreation & Education	x	x	x	x	Under contract
Witt Home Ranch	395	2	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project

Project Status Chart
5/18/2018

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Total Acres: 12,173

Matching Grant Projects	Acres (approximate)	Supervisory District	Location	Begin Grant Process	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
Andy's Unity Park	4	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x				Reimbursement ongoing
Bayer Farm Development	6**	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	x	x	x	Reimbursement ongoing, Grant term extended
Colgan Creek Phase 3 MG*	7	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x	x	Board approved 4/21/15
Crane Creek Regional Trail*	6	1	East of Rohnert Park	x	n/a			Initiating project
Denman Reach	2	2	North Petaluma	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Falletti Ranch	4	2	Cotati	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Forever Forestville*	4	5	Downtown Forestville	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Graton Community Park	1	5	Downtown Graton	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Guerneville River Park Phase 2*	5	5	Central Guerneville	x	x	x		Initiating project
Irwin Creek Riparian Restoration*	47**	5	West of Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x	n/a	Reimbursement ongoing
Maxwell Farms	79	1	Northwest of Sonoma	x	n/a			Initiating project
Nathanson Creek Restoration Phase 2	1**	1	Sonoma	x	n/a			Reimbursement ongoing
Paula Lane Open Space Preserve	11	2	West Petaluma	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
River Lane	1	5	West of Guerneville	x				Drafting documents
Riverfront Regional Park Recreation Improv	300**	4	West of Windsor	x	n/a			Initiating project
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1	3	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x				Initiating project
Roseland Village Public Space	1	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway	61	1	Southeast Santa Rosa	x		x		Initiating project
SMART Pathway – Hearn to Bellevue*	6	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x		FOC approved 7/21/16
SMART Pathway - Payran to S. Point	14	2	Petaluma	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Sonoma Garden Park Phase 2*	5**	1	East of Sonoma	x	n/a	x	n/a	Reimbursement ongoing
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNe	27**	2	Downtown Petaluma	x	n/a			Initiating project
Total Acres:	127							

* District approved a 2-year extension

** Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.