

Proposition O Citizen's Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 2:00 pm

Committee Members

Adi Liberman	Mark Gold
Mary Nichols	Francine Diamond
Craig Perkins	Tiger Kang
Gideon Kracov	Teresa Villegas

Cynthia McClain-Hill

Bold denotes members present

City

Shahram Kharaghani (BOS)

Charles Modica (CLA)

Kendrick Okuda (BOE)

Rafael Prieto (CLA)

Wing Tam (BOS)

Beryl Taylor (CAO)

The meeting was called to order.

I. Approval of Minutes for April 18, 2007

1. A correction was made to Item II, number 1, to state that the \$50 million set aside for LA River Revitalization Projects was not for a specific project. A motion was made to approve the April meeting minutes with the correction. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

II. CAO/CLA update

1. The AOC did not meet in April. The CAO's office presented the updated Program Budget Summary items.

III. Discussion and Possible Action Aliso Creek/Limekiln Creek and Parking Grove in El Sereno

1. BOS stated that these projects were submitted as part of the Round one application. BOS is bringing back the El Sereno Parking Grove Project to satisfy COAC's request to re-evaluate for water quality benefits. The Aliso Limekiln Project will be presented to reflect an expanded scope relative to the original Round 1 application. The concept reports will be presented by BOS.

2. BOS presented the Aliso Creek project. The original concept was on a much smaller scale and had a smaller budget. The project site is broken into four areas totaling 11.8 acres. Aliso Creek is a tributary to the LA River. The project has a total cost of \$10.9 million.
3. Dash Stolarz, MRCA. Ms. Stolarz explained the reason they originally proposed the site for the smaller project. They were looking for sites that had potential for stormwater treatment, re-vegetation and habitat enhancement. The site is one of few in the valley.
4. The COAC discussed that the project is much better than the original project brought before them last year, but also considerably more expensive. The project cost has increased from approximately \$1M to \$10.9M. They decided to table the discussion until after BOS presented the El Sereno project.
5. Councilman Jose Huizar spoke to the COAC concerning the El Sereno Parking Grove Project. Councilman Huizar stated that he supports the project and there is a tremendous need in the community for this project. His office has a verbal agreement with LAUSD to donate O&M services in perpetuity. He also stated that the project has matching funds from a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$448,000.
6. BOS presented the El Sereno Parking Grove Project. BOS stated that the price has been reduced from \$5M to \$3.9 M and the area of the project is 4.5 acres.

Public Comment

7. Luis Sanchez, Representative Monica Garcia, LAUSD Board. Mr. Sanchez stated that their office will work to complete an MOU between LAUSD and the CD 14 for O&M for the project. He stated that he hopes the COAC moves the project forward.
8. Renee Barron, Farmdale Elementary School. Ms. Barron stated that the adjacent park is the only park in the community and it is widely used. There is no lighting at the park and people dump trash, which runs off of the slope into the storm drain.
9. Robert Saunders, Farmdale Elementary School. Mr. Saunders submitted a petition to the COAC with signatures of residents that support the project. Mr. Saunders stated that the community will appreciate if the COAC would approve the project.
10. Claudia Magaña de Muñoz, Farmdale Elementary School. Ms. Magaña de Muñoz stated that the park only has a tiny parking lot and there is a need for more parking. Many handicapped children attend the school and it is hard for wheelchairs to be wheeled across the dirt parking lot. Dust from the parking lot is blown into the school on windy days and irritates the children with breathing problems. Ms. Magaña de Muñoz stated that any help from the COAC will be greatly appreciated.
11. Joyce Dillard. Ms. Dillard asked if it was realistic to believe that LAUSD will provide O&M due to the fact that they are cutting their budget. She asked if Recreation and Parks will take over the O&M if LAUSD can't do it. Ms. Dillard also stated that people come to dump their trash in that area.
12. The COAC discussed the project and LAUSD's commitment. Rogelio Navar, representative from Councilman Huizar's office, stated that they have a verbal commitment from LAUSD to provided O&M services in perpetuity. The COAC recognized and supported the community

need for this project. However, the COAC discussed that many of the Best Management Practices (BMP)s in the project seemed redundant and asked the City to redesign the BMPs with lower cost alternatives and bring it back to them. The parking lot will not be able to treat any outside drainage and the cost per parking space is \$40,000. The project cost is too high and needs to be reduced. The COAC recommended a target for the total project cost to be around \$2 M. The COAC also requested that the City not to use the standard multipliers (or contingencies) for this project since it is a fairly typical parking lot construction project. A motion was made to have the City redesign the project according to their requests and bring it back once more. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

13. The COAC continued the discussion on Aliso Creek. MRCA is contributing \$900,000 for re-vegetation. The COAC suggested that the City consider re-evaluating the Aliso Creek project as a regional project with solutions to address meeting TMDLs and water quality standards. A motion was made to have the City redesign the project for regional TMDLs solutions and bring back to COAC once again for consideration. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action-Bureau of Engineering Monthly Report and Progress Update

1. BOE presented the April report. The Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacterial TMDL LFD project was moved into the design phase. Revised cost is between \$36-\$38 million.
2. The COAC requested BOE to provide a list of the top projects identified in the L.A. River Revitalization Master Plan for the next meeting.
3. The COAC requested BOS to provide an update on the Water Quality Compliance Master Plan for the next meeting.
4. The COAC requested BOS to provide the total amount of pollutants that will be removed by all the projects approved to date on a summary sheet.
5. The COAC requested BOS to work with Vice-Chair Adi Liberman to draft a Prop O Program PowerPoint Presentation that maybe presented to COAC once finalized.
6. The COAC requested BOE and BOS to work on a prioritization list of approved projects.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on COAC Subcommittee Reports

1. Two COAC members of the Playa Vista sub-committee attempted to meet with Playa Vista without success. COAC discussed re-evaluating a proposed project located in the Playa Vista area that drains to Ballona Creek. A COAC member suggested writing a formal letter requesting a meeting with Playa Vista. A COAC member suggested having an open forum about project locations in the lower Ballona Creek and wetland area. Two COAC members on the sub-committee will develop a proposal to hold a public forum in West Los Angeles.
2. Mark Huffman, Playa Vista, Vice-President of Entitlements. Mr. Huffman stated that the Playa Vista property has been sold to two separate buyers. He stated that it may be possible to pump water to existing parks but it would be expensive. Mr. Huffman said that Playa Vista is open to having a meeting with the COAC sub-committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.