

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: RIVERSIDE COUNTY
PERMIT ASSISTANCE CENTER
38686 El Cerrito Road
Second Floor Conference Room
Palm Desert, California

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, December 1, 2007
9:08 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.

REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR
CSR NO. 6008

JOB NO.: 66818DM

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT:

AL MUTH, CHAIRPERSON - University of California,
Riverside

JIM FOOTE - Designated Federal Official, National
Monument Manager

ROBERT BROCKMAN - City of Rancho Mirage

JEFF MORGAN - Local Conservation Organization,
Sierra Club

BOB LYMAN - Riverside County

BUFORD CRITES - City of Palm Desert

ALSO PRESENT:

BRUCE UNDERWOOD - Prospective representative for the
City of Indian Wells

JERRY OGBURN - Prospective representative for the
Winter Park Authority

MARGARET PARK - ACBCI

LEE BEYER - U.S. Forest Service

JOHN LADLEY - San Bernardino National Forest

1 PALM DESERT, CA SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007

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3 P R O C E E D I N G S

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5 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Okay. Let's call the
6 meeting to order. Are there any additions, comments
7 to the minutes?

8 MR. MORGAN: The spelling of names and
9 places.

10 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Do you have --

11 MR. MORGAN: I didn't make a list.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: You didn't make a
13 list?

14 MR. MORGAN: No. It's just a comment.

15 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Just a comment.

16 Okay. Do you have to do the roll call before I can
17 say, without objection the minutes are accepted?

18 MR. FOOTE: Yeah. Do that first.

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Okay. Without
20 objection the minutes are accepted. Now we have the
21 roll call.

22 MR. FOOTE: Bob Brockman, City of Rancho
23 Mirage.

24 MR. BROCKMAN: Here.

25 MR. FOOTE: Buford Crites.

3

1 MR. CRITES: Yes.

2 MR. FOOTE: Barbara Gonzales Lyons.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here.

4 MR. FOOTE: Absent. Al Muth.

5 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Present.

6 MR. FOOTE: Dawn Wellman, absent. Bill
7 Havert, absent. Bob Lyman.

8 MR. LYMAN: Here.

9 MR. FOOTE: Paul Marchand, absent.
10 Sharon Apfelbaum, absent. Terry Henderson, absent.
11 Jeff Morgan.

12 MR. MORGAN: I'm here.

13 MR. FOOTE: Gary Watts, absent. There
14 are also three vacancies, City of Indian Wells, Winter
15 Park Authority and the local builder organization for
16 which we have no representatives. We have six
17 appointed members in attendance. We do not have a
18 quorum.

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Okay. We do not have
20 a quorum, so we won't be able to take action. But we
21 can listen to the presentation on recommendation
22 regarding project priorities for Monument
23 Communication Strategy formerly known as Business
24 Plan.

25 MR. HERREMA: Okay. Well, good morning,

1 everyone, and thank you for having me this morning.
2 My name is Doug Herrema. I'm with the Bureau of Land
3 Management currently in Jim Foote's, office but I'm
4 based in the Washington office. There is a four-month
5 assignment to put together a communications strategy
6 to convey the top priority on the ground projects for
7 the next three to five years for the National
8 Monument.

9 So today I wanted to give you mostly a
10 progress report to tell you where we're at and the
11 direction we're thinking and get your feedback and
12 ideas of how I might improve the direction I'm going
13 in as well as share the sort of articulated shared
14 vision of the various steering committee members we've
15 been working with as well as the various planning
16 efforts that have gone on for a number of years. With
17 that, we'll take it away.

18 Of course, this is our Monument logo. Over
19 the next few minutes, I'll go through just very, very
20 briefly the background of the area, the establishment
21 and purpose of the Monument, the significant values
22 for which it was designated, demands that are
23 currently being placed on the Monument, some
24 strategies to protect the values and address the
25 demands that are ongoing and anticipated. And then

5

1 we'll go through the handouts that you all should have
2 received -- does everybody have a copy, I think? --
3 great -- of the priority projects that have been
4 listed by the various managers and steering committee
5 members as the top on-the-ground priorities. And then
6 if you would provide your feedback and questions, that
7 will be tremendous.

8 So of course on the top right here, we have
9 the context in Southern California of the Monument,
10 and then that red outline there is the current
11 boundaries of the Monument.

12 I don't really need to go into the natural
13 history, human history, conservation actions and
14 interested parties with this group; you all probably
15 know it better than anyone ever has or ever will. But
16 I really liked that picture, so I wanted to show it.
17 It's one of the great ones that Margaret provided from
18 the tribe.

19 This is the third phrase of the
20 establishment clause, Section 2B of the Monument
21 Establishment Act, which I think outlines the goals
22 and the vision of the Monument, preserving and
23 protecting the resource values and securing
24 opportunities to experience and enjoy and recreate,
25 and so that's the framework that we proceeded with.

1 And that's a nice sugar pine there.

2 So some of the significant values
3 identified in the legislation -- biological,
4 geological, cultural, recreational, educational and
5 scientific -- that term "ecodiversity," I tried to
6 think for weeks about a good term to describe all of
7 the unique and special biological features of the
8 area, from the diverse ecosystems to the range of
9 species and plant communities and such, and thought
10 that that was just a nice way of saying it.

11 Of course, the magnificent vistas and land
12 forms that make the area so striking, the interwoven
13 histories of the native peoples and explorers and
14 Spanish, Mexican and American immigrants and, of
15 course, the contemporary picture of all the different
16 folks that we've got here, the trails, the wilderness
17 experience and a nice yucca shot.

18 Some of the demands driving work as have
19 been articulated to me: Population growth within the
20 Coachella Valley and the mountain communities as well
21 as the larger megalopolitan areas of Riverside, Orange
22 County, San Diego and Los Angeles; what's been
23 expressed to me as a shared desire to stop planning
24 and start doing, start getting some on-the-ground
25 projects done; expectations from partners, community

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1 groups, people working together; of course our mission
2 as articulated by Congress but also through various
3 other conservation actions stretching all the way back
4 to the designation of the Forest Reserve by President
5 Cleveland in the late 1800s; of course, impacts and
6 use, geocaching, recreation and such; demands for
7 enjoyment, anything from casual drivers cruising down
8 Highway 74 who might want to turn off at Cahuilla
9 Tewanet, to folks looking for a wilderness experience;
10 and of course, limited staffing and funding. The
11 folks are always short on time, people and money.

12 So some of the behind-the-scenes strategies
13 that need to be in place to protect the values and
14 address the demands: Partnerships, which no one is
15 more familiar with than you all; volunteers and
16 friends; service first, working, together between the
17 BLM, the Forest Service and tribe and national parks
18 and such.

19 Basic baseline data. These are things that
20 I wanted to touch on very briefly because they're not
21 going to be included in the actual communication
22 strategy. This is going to be and is an external
23 document to leverage funding, to leverage work and
24 those kinds of things. But I think it's important to
25 keep these things in mind because they are such a huge

1 part of what we do.

2 And it's unfortunate that Bill is not here
3 because that's a nice picture of Bill down in the
4 bottom right there.

5 So what are some of the on-the-ground
6 projects and strategies we've got going? It sounds
7 like eradicating invasive species, tamarisk and
8 fountain grass and those kinds of things are
9 foundational. Improving habitat and restoring native
10 species; the development, maintenance and improvement
11 of existing and proposed facilities; signage and
12 designation of trails under the Multiple Species
13 Habitat Conservation Plan and others.

14 Education and interpretation. We've had
15 numerous discussions about where that would fit. Is
16 that an on-the-ground project? And we've decided that
17 one of the things that's visible. Guests and visitors
18 and community members alike respond well to it.

19 And then of course, the practice of
20 collaborative stewardship, utilizing volunteers on the
21 ground for projects and such.

22 No pretty picture in this one because I
23 wanted to focus on the words. This is the strategic
24 framework that I've come up with to convey the
25 priority projects, informed as much as possible from

1 the legislation itself protecting the natural resource
2 values, the heritage resource values and then securing
3 opportunities to experience, enjoy and recreate. I
4 found those were so interwoven that it would be sort
5 of impossible to extricate them from each other in
6 this type of a framework.

7 Now, if you wouldn't mind turning to the
8 handout, on Page 2 we begin with a list of projects.
9 And as we go, some of these pictures here are some of
10 the pictures that I'd like to include in the final
11 document, the communication strategy itself, showing
12 least Bell's vireo down there in the bottom right,
13 bighorn sheep up on the top left, tamarisk eradication
14 in the top right and then the -- I believe that's the
15 desert chaparral plant community -- correct me if I'm
16 wrong -- down there in the bottom left, kind of trying
17 to indicate some of the spectrum of the natural
18 resource values in the area.

19 My role, I guess -- my project has been to
20 synthesize the plans and the priority projects from
21 numerous different agencies and folks for the last
22 couple of months, and these four things under
23 "Biological Resources" have emerged as sort of the big
24 consensus items: Improving peninsular bighorn sheep
25 habitat, eradicating non-native vegetation, managing

1 special-status species and managing riparian and
2 wetland conditions. These are the things that seem to
3 have really risen to the top of priorities for the
4 next three to five years.

5 And at any point if anyone has questions,
6 comments, suggestions, please just let me know.

7 Under "Heritage Resources" strategically
8 we've split heritage resources into cultural
9 resources and wilderness values. Of course within
10 wilderness, we've got natural resources, cultural
11 resources, water, recreation facilities, grass, a
12 number of different things. But in kind of keeping
13 with the spirit of wilderness preservation as an
14 aesthetic value and as something that humans ascribe
15 value to, I found that it was strategically good here.

16 So we've got the Santa Rosa Wilderness up
17 there in the top left, mock village on the top right
18 there, structure of Martinez Canyon on bottom left and
19 nice view of the wilderness down on the bottom right.
20 And actually that was supposed to be an Agua Caliente
21 basket, but I guess unfortunately this version did not
22 work out. The usual technical difficulties prevailed
23 this morning.

24 So a couple of the things that rose to the
25 top with cultural was, developing oral history

1 projects, having knowledgeable local residents and
2 those with knowledge of historic and prehistoric uses
3 of the Monument provide education and interpretation.

4 Preparing historic and prehistoric
5 archeological sites for use as magnet sites for
6 visitation, for archaeological use and those kinds of
7 things came up.

8 And then that fourth bullet there was a
9 combination of a couple of different things that
10 arose: Using trained volunteers to perform as site
11 stewards to do monitoring work, to conduct archeology
12 where appropriate and those kinds of things.

13 Then in the wilderness values the
14 number-one thing that seemed to come up was updating
15 and expanding the wilderness map to include visitor
16 information.

17 And then on the next page there, Page 3,
18 managing non-natives within wilderness. That seemed
19 to come up as a distinguishable way to manage
20 non-natives.

21 Then we come to our largest category,
22 securing opportunities to experience, enjoy and
23 recreate. One of the major projects is indicated by
24 the top-left photo there, and that's the construction
25 and maintenance of the Keenwild helibase that's right

1 in the middle of Page 3 under "Fire Management."

2 Then back up to "Trails," developing a
3 trailhead at Snow Creek for the Pacific Crest Trail,
4 maintaining a number of miles every year of
5 non-motorized trails, completing a trails map.

6 Then under "Camping," as many of us in the
7 room saw a couple of days ago going to those campsites
8 and those yellow-post sites, working with partners and
9 agencies to replace dilapidated facilities at
10 campgrounds and those kinds of things, securing water
11 sources, replacing fire grills and such.

12 Fuels reduction came up as a biggie.
13 Especially in this time of draught, that seemed to be
14 something that was important.

15 Then we have facilities and visitor uses,
16 visitor services. The major one seems to be the
17 maintenance and repairs at Cahuilla Tewanet. There's
18 a list of various projects under that. Upgrading and
19 expanding the Monument visitors' center, and there's a
20 couple of nice pictures of folks at the visitors'
21 center there. Installing visitor counters to get an
22 idea of how many people are coming through. Then we
23 had a couple of Park Service projects in there -- not
24 Park Service --- excuse me -- state parks. Designing
25 and constructing a boardwalk-type trail through the

1 Meadow, constructing a new visitors' center and
2 educational facility in conjunction with Winter Park
3 Authority. And then a couple of Agua Caliente
4 projects down at the bottom there, replacing the old
5 fence along the northern border of Indian Canyons and
6 replacing the guardrail to improve the rock wall of
7 the Trading Post, that real high visitation area.

8 Then finally we come to education and
9 outreach. That's kind of a large area to put in such
10 a small amount of words, but that incorporates
11 in-person interpretation, educational programs out in
12 Palm Canyon, brochures, maps, guides, those kinds of
13 things. The major one seemed to be the development of
14 visitor information center, Monument interpretive
15 exhibit at the Idyllwild Ranger Station. That seemed
16 to be a big part of incorporating the mountain
17 communities aspect of the Monument.

18 Then developing a comprehensive guidebooks,
19 brochures and pamphlets program. Now, the ongoing
20 Southern California Edison grant is obviously a major
21 part of that. But there seemed to be a sense that
22 building upon that program would be very beneficial
23 for the effectuation of the vision and goals of the
24 Monument for the next few years.

25 Then we had the establishment of

1 interpreter signs along certain geological points of
2 interest where unique geological features are visible
3 at specific points near and in the Monument, the
4 establishment of a mock Cahuilla village, which I
5 understand is either ongoing or near completion or --
6 yeah, it's very close.

7 And that's one thing I wanted to point out,
8 just in terms of what this document and this project
9 is. It's intended to be a living, updated thing. So
10 anything we're going to complete this fiscal year, I
11 think, is absolutely appropriate to include in here
12 because those are things we can track as
13 accomplishments and be able to talk to folks that
14 would want to provide time, money and resources to the
15 Monument as examples of shared success within the
16 Monument.

17 Hiking and interpretive programs utilizing
18 tribal members' knowledge, outreach and education to
19 the northern portal communities, interpretive signage
20 along South Palm Canyon Road and then signs, kiosks
21 and displays at some of the areas down there at the
22 bottom of Page 4.

23 So that's a great picture on the bottom
24 right there of a couple of students next to a barrel
25 cactus. That's right down in Palm Canyon. And then

1 one of the interpretive signs. It's tough to read the
2 writing, but that's at one of the trailheads, notice
3 to hikers and dog owners, and then an off-site
4 seminar-type experience on the top there talking about
5 the National Monument for folks.

6 This is just kind of to remind me as much
7 as anybody else, I guess, that there are consequences
8 to not prioritizing the projects that are listed
9 throughout our various planning documents, creating
10 ad hoc systems and processes over time. As we have
11 turnover with staffing and interests and stakeholders,
12 we risk losing some of the major things that are
13 important about the area: Species diversity,
14 ecosystem health, our cultural resources, the
15 aesthetic and scenic characteristic of the area, which
16 seems to be the number-one defining characteristic of
17 what makes it special.

18 Economic opportunities. The possibility, I
19 think, exists very much to develop partnerships with
20 tourism for the protection and enjoyment of the
21 Monument. And getting kids and families back to
22 nature, that seems to be something nascent in the
23 national consciousness as well as the local
24 consciousness. It seems that we've lost in some
25 essences our connectedness to nature, and getting kids

1 to reconnect with an area in the backyard of
2 20 million Californians that still offers pristine
3 front-country wilderness, and that's pretty
4 incredible, not only locally and regionally but across
5 the country and, I think, across the world. And of
6 course, we have everything to gain.

7 I would love to find out who this is
8 painting this picture because I think it's kind of a
9 nice illustration of what we're doing here. A picture
10 tells a story of a place. It's a window into
11 perceptions of a place, and I think that's what we're
12 trying do here in telling the story of the Monument in
13 this way, is to be able to be gain these things, to
14 plan into the future, to monitor and track our
15 progress, to identify and address our backlogs, which
16 is one of the original indicia for the project in
17 general, leverage some additional funding, share
18 workloads where we can, across federal agencies,
19 tribal, state.

20 One of the things that struck me, being a
21 newcomer to this area, is how well the federal
22 agencies work with the Coachella Valley Mountains
23 Conservancy and the Friends of the Desert Mountains to
24 acquire lands for conservation purposes. That's
25 something, I think, that's very neat.

1 Public education, which has numerable
2 benefits. And then leaving a legacy, something that
3 seems to be true throughout many areas of the country
4 now. Folks are going to be retiring and moving on,
5 and this is hopefully one way to memorialize the
6 collective knowledge that folks have now so that when
7 new folks come in to manage the Monument and care for
8 it and love it and enjoy it, they'll have that as a
9 foundation.

10 And that's it. It's pretty quick. That is
11 my contact information down at the bottom. I liked
12 this picture of one of our smallest residents of the
13 Monument to put kind of in perspective what John Muir,
14 I guess, said about, you try to pluck a flower, and
15 you find that it's hitched to everywhere else in the
16 universe. And if any other place besides this
17 expresses that, I'm not sure what it is.

18 So any of your feedback or questions?

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I think he is on the
20 right track. Has he left anything out,
21 over-emphasized anything? Comments?

22 MR. MORGAN: There doesn't seem to be
23 very much money for tamarisk removal. Removing
24 tamarisk in Palm Canyon and Horse Creek on Forest
25 Service lands 20,000 per year. You'd probably get

1 about a hundred square yards cleared for that, and
2 there's miles of it.

3 MR. HERREMA: Thanks. I'll get in touch
4 with Laurie Rosenthal and get a better sense of it.

5 MR. MORGAN: I mean, we've been talking
6 about a budget much, much larger than that to remove
7 tamarisk.

8 MR. CRITES: On that same issue, Jim,
9 could you see if you can go online and find a
10 newspaper called "High Country News," because the
11 December issue has their major article on biological
12 control of tamarisk. It's all about the new beetle
13 that we're losing in various areas. And if we can
14 look at that intentionally, all of a sudden some of
15 Jeff's issues decrease in terms of the amount of
16 money. I know there are all the other issues and
17 everything, but a lot of that stuff has been looked at
18 and so on. And we ought to be looking at things aside
19 from manual removal and so on as alternatives.

20 So if you can get that and send that to
21 whomever in here would like to see that article,
22 because it was a darn good article.

23 MR. FOOTE: I do have a copy of that,
24 and I'll copy that and send it out to folks.

25 MR. CRITES: Also on Page 2, if we can

1 find out under "Cultural Resources" if we have
2 available an oral interview with Katherine Savol or
3 not. That ought to be an A-plus priority. I mean, I
4 don't know of anyone in the Native American community
5 who has a stronger background and attachment to those
6 mountains than she does, and she's, I think, 86 years
7 old. So that should be more than a modest hint.

8 And then also on Page 2, the very bottom,
9 do we need a wilderness map in addition to the
10 Monument map?

11 MR. MORGAN: I'm looking at this also.
12 It says "Update and expand upon Santa Rosa Wilderness
13 map," and as far as I know, there was never a map
14 completed of the Santa Rosa Wilderness.

15 MR. CRITES: I have one.

16 MR. MORGAN: You do?

17 MR. CRITES: Yeah.

18 MR. MORGAN: It was not complete.

19 MR. CRITES: I have one. It's old.

20 It's the old Forest Service wilderness map, but anyhow
21 I don't know that we need one if we're doing a
22 Monument map. A Monument map will include all of
23 that.

24 MR. MORGAN: We just adjusted the
25 boundaries on Wednesday, I think, to make sure they

20

1 conform to where the actual wilderness boundaries are.
2 This is on the news map we're working on. So what we
3 didn't do was differentiate between different agency
4 wilderness boundaries like it was before, you know,
5 Forest Service wilderness and BLM wilderness. We just
6 put it all together as the Santa Rosa Wilderness with
7 the purple line around it.

8 MR. FOOTE: We'll take that back. And I
9 mention -- I say that because we have had a recent
10 discussion about whether we do need this comprehensive
11 wilderness map that includes both Forest Service and
12 BLM lands, and there was an agency sense among some
13 that, yes, that was necessary.

14 MR. CRITES: In addition to a Monument
15 map?

16 MR. FOOTE: Correct.

17 MR. LADLEY: That's very detailed.

18 MR. CRITES: For what?

19 MR. LADLEY: One that would within the
20 same area be a larger scale and more detailed.

21 MR. CRITES: For what?

22 MR. LADLEY: For hikers, hunters.

23 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Isn't that already
24 covered in existing topo maps, the detail you're
25 seeking?

1 MR. MORGAN: The boundaries are not
2 marked on the existing map. If the BLM can put it
3 together with the Forest Service, I don't see any
4 reason not to do it. But it would have to be of a
5 scale large enough to be of value because the new
6 Monument map is not seven-and-a-half-minute scale.
7 It's smaller.

8 MR. FOOTE: Let me say we'll revisit
9 that, because I think the concern here is, even if we
10 did it, it requires an allocation of resources to do
11 it. And are those resources better expended elsewhere
12 if it doesn't essentially have value added to the
13 Monument map we're now producing? And we'll raise
14 that issue again.

15 MR. CRITES: I'd also note that in terms
16 of use pressure, the Santa Rosa Wilderness gets, in
17 essence, no one.

18 MR. MORGAN: Not past Horse Thief Creek.
19 They walk there and then turn around.

20 MR. CRITES: So you're producing a map
21 that has, compared to all the other visitor use areas
22 in the Monument, the lowest percentage or number of
23 people using the area of any area. And to the degree
24 they do use it, they use it on one little trail
25 system. They go Horse Thief, Cactus Spring, and then

1 either down Guadalupe or over into Martinez Canyon,
2 and fiddling around with the rest of the that boundary
3 up Santa Rosa Mountain isn't going to mean much to
4 hardly a soul.

5 MR. MORGAN: Additionally the boundaries
6 may be changing soon. There is legislation in the --

7 MR. CRITES: I'd lower the priority.

8 MR. MORGAN: -- that will be maybe be
9 introduced next week in the -- well, I'm sorry. It
10 has been introduced, but it may be introduced in the
11 Senate next week. And if they, you know, pass it, you
12 know -- well, if the House passes it, it might be
13 marked up next week, and it might be just after the
14 holidays. Chances are it will pass.

15 MR. FOOTE: I think the take-away
16 message here is for us to look at this again but
17 relative to the communications strategy. We don't
18 want to be identifying low-priority items in a
19 communications strategy that becomes a marketing tool.
20 So we need to determine whether it's high enough to be
21 included here or, in fact, it's so low that it needs
22 to drop off the screen, but acknowledging that maybe,
23 should resources be available above and beyond
24 everything we can accomplish here, which is unlikely,
25 that it can come back on the screen. But we'll look

1 at that again.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Mr. Crites.

3 MR. CRITES: On Page 3 under "Fire
4 Management," I'd like to know if there is support from
5 all of the members of the committee who are here today
6 to have several of the committee members contact -- as
7 individual committee members, contact Representative
8 Bono's staff and get someone up on the mountain to
9 look at the helibase and the kinds of improvements
10 that are needed, because I know Forest Service has
11 some funds. I know John is here, so maybe he could
12 speak to that. But those funds only stay existing
13 until what? Next October or something?

14 MR. LADLEY: Yeah. Do you want to go
15 into that now or save it as a separate matter?

16 MR. FOOTE: Let me back up just for a
17 minute here. We did not address this as a potential
18 agenda addition, and that would be John providing some
19 information about the Keenwild helipad base as a
20 separate agenda item.

21 MR. CRITES: It's here as an agenda
22 item.

23 MR. FOOTE: Would you prefer we deal
24 with it now?

25 MR. CRITES: We're being asked to

1 endorse it.

2 MR. FOOTE: What's your preference,
3 John?

4 MR. LADLEY: I can, but it may take away
5 from where we're going. That's my concern.

6 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Doug?

7 MR. HERREMA: I believe it's consistent,
8 because this is an attempt on my part to make sure
9 that these projects are, for lack of a better word,
10 kosher with the advisory group.

11 MR. LADLEY: Okay. Before I get into
12 that, I do need to get you some updated costs on some
13 of this, because we've got a couple of things in here
14 that costs have changed or we've already done, and
15 that's probably my fault, not getting you the
16 information. But I can work on this next week and get
17 you some facts.

18 MR. HERREMA: Thanks.

19 MR. CRITES: Bob, speak up.

20 MR. FOOTE: For the record John Ladley
21 is representing U.S. Forest Service today on behalf of
22 Laurie Rosenthal. And while John is passing out
23 information, let me go back just a bit to do something
24 I should have done earlier, and that is introduce
25 other folks who are in the room.

1 Margaret Park with the Agua Caliente band
2 of Cahuilla Indians is here today; Bruce Underwood,
3 who is a prospective Monument representative for the
4 City of Indian Wells; Lee Beyer, who is our new U.S.
5 Forest Service recreation technician, who is working
6 both beyond and for Service land in the Monument
7 exclusively. Lee is with us today. Lee is going to
8 be assisting with some Monument Advisory Committee
9 duties as time goes on, much along the same lines that
10 Frank did before.

11 And this gentleman, I -- could you
12 please --

13 MR. OGBURN: Jerry Ogburn, Winter Park
14 Authority.

15 MR. FOOTE: Oh, Jerry. I've never met
16 you. Thank you. Jerry Ogburn, who's a prospective
17 member for the Winter Park Authority.

18 And then before we finish today, I'll go
19 over the status of where we stand on these prospective
20 nominations. Thank you for attending, Jerry.

21 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Go, John.

22 MR. LADLEY: Okay. Jump into this.
23 Norm and Larry both could not be here, so they asked
24 me to present this. So I will try to answer what I
25 can. I'm familiar with it but not in great detail.

1 Bottom line, at Keenwild we have a helibase for the
2 San Jacinto Ranger District, for the National
3 Monument. It's a very important helibase because it
4 allows us initial attack capabilities in case of fires
5 and to be able to respond fairly timely and fairly
6 promptly.

7 The issue that we have is, the current
8 facility is made up of a leftover FEMA trailer and a
9 shack that's had attempts to upgrade it over time.
10 However, the shack and the FEMA trailer do not meet
11 our health and safety requirements, space
12 requirements, restroom requirements, any of that.

13 I know since about the year 2000 the fire
14 shop has been promoting and attempting to replace that
15 with a standard facility that would be adequate to
16 support a helibase. They've gone through the
17 engineering department. It was approved, I believe,
18 in 2002. Money was obligated for that but not enough
19 money to make it happen.

20 Since that time period, costs have
21 increased, and basically we have money that we're
22 still holding onto for that, which is enough to start
23 the project but by no means finish it. We're looking
24 at about a \$600,000 shortfall. They do have
25 approximately 500,000 that's being held. That money

1 is good until the end of this fiscal year, which is
2 September 30th of 2008, so we need to use that or give
3 it back at some point. That's part of the equation.

4 The other part is that this helibase for
5 initial attack capabilities is very important both to
6 the community and the district in the areas that are
7 covered out of that. With the current condition of
8 it, there's been talk that, if this doesn't happen,
9 then that facility may well get shifted down to
10 San Bernardino where there are adequate facilities to
11 support an aircraft and the crew. Big concern with
12 that is that, can we extend our initial attack time
13 considerably?

14 So that's bottom line, is that we want to
15 be able to maintain that helibase at Keenwild. We do
16 want to construct a facility that will support that
17 project or that program. And we're basically looking
18 to supplement the monies we already have. So that's
19 the challenge, is to make it happen. The engineering
20 design is done. There is partial funding for it. But
21 it's enough funding to basically do the site prep,
22 construct a foundation and maybe put up some stick
23 walls but not complete it, by any means. So I was
24 asked to bring that up.

25 MR. BROCKMAN: Where is Keenwild?

1 MR. LADLEY: Off of Highway 243 between
2 Idyllwild and Mt. San Jacinto, about three miles out
3 of Idyllwild. It's a good central location.

4 MR. MORGAN: Where are you seeking these
5 additional funds? From what source?

6 MR. LADLEY: I've been attempting to go
7 through Forest Service channels. Like I said, that
8 was approved in 2002. I believe in 2005 that was
9 resubmitted, and at that point the Forest Service
10 rejected that in relation to other priorities. So
11 we're just kind of sitting right now and looking for
12 options.

13 MR. MORGAN: So political pressure, say,
14 from Bono or Feinstein hung to the Forest Service is
15 maybe what might work here.

16 MR. LADLEY: My side of things, I cannot
17 advocate any of it.

18 MR. MORGAN: I understand that. But as
19 a private citizen.

20 MR. LADLEY: Yes.

21 MR. MORGAN: And there are many other
22 private citizens that can. So I think you need the
23 helicopter base there, because I used to live up
24 there. It's something that's just needed.

25 MR. LYMAN: I think that it would be

1 apparent that this would be a good time to strike,
2 given the fact that the state of California activated
3 every emergency resource last Tuesday afternoon -- a
4 week ago Tuesday and spent \$10 million just activating
5 emergency services. It would seem to be prudent to do
6 this while everybody's memory is fresh, and Mary Bono
7 and Mark Trost, I'm sure, would be extremely
8 receptive.

9 MR. CRITES: If someone else might
10 volunteer to help nudge Mark to go up there, we could
11 take a drive up and meet with the Forest Service and
12 the county.

13 MR. LYMAN: I'd be glad.

14 MR. CRITES: I think that would be a
15 wonderful thing, and we'll see if we can't
16 unofficially be of some value, noting that there's no
17 objection at all from any member of the advisory
18 committee to moving this forward.

19 MR. MORGAN: Also I believe that Senator
20 Feinstein is in the process of adding an additional 30
21 or so million dollars to the San Bernardino National
22 Forest fire budget, of which I believe Idyllwild
23 should probably get -- San Jacinto Ranger District
24 should get probably about 12 million. Somewhere in
25 there there's got to be enough money to finish this

30

1 project.

2 MR. LADLEY: It depends on what color
3 money comes in.

4 MR. MORGAN: I think it's needed.

5 MR. LADLEY: We would certainly welcome
6 some attention to that. It's really a critical
7 component in our fire program.

8 MR. FOOTE: I think for the record, just
9 to emphasize what Buford had indicated, and that is
10 MAC members as individual citizens taking action here.
11 As we know, the Monument Advisory Committee cannot
12 lobby for funds. So just remember that.

13 MR. CRITES: Shocking.

14 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Goody two-shoes.
15 Yes, Buford.

16 MR. CRITES: Mr. Chair, also on Page 3
17 on "Fire Management," I believe it would be
18 appropriate under the third bullet, "Reduce fuels on
19 the San Jacinto Mountain" -- I think it would be
20 appropriate to add Santa Rosa as well. I don't know
21 what that does to costs, but obviously both of those
22 areas have fuel-reduction needs in accordance with
23 appropriate policies, procedures and all the rest, but
24 it's not simply San Jacinto.

25 MR. MORGAN: Of note on that, the Forest

1 Service is currently preparing a fuels-reduction plan
2 for Santa Rosa. So it's probably best to way wait for
3 the plan to come out and see what it says.

4 MR. CRITES: But I think it ought to be
5 listed on this page.

6 MR. MORGAN: Oh, the funding. You just
7 add Santa Rosa and San Jacinto.

8 Mr. Chairman, also on Page 3, "Securing
9 opportunities," et cetera, it says, "Maintain 30 miles
10 of non-motorized trails." This would be regular trail
11 repairs, say, throughout the forest? Yes?

12 MR. HERREMA: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. Yes,
13 it would.

14 MR. MORGAN: Because some of them are in
15 very, very poor condition.

16 MR. HERREMA: Yes.

17 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Additional comments?

19 MR. BROCKMAN: This is an overall
20 question. How is this going to be used for securing
21 funding? What's the strategy?

22 MR. HERREMA: Two ways. This is the
23 external piece of a four-step process developed
24 internally within the Bureau of Land Management but
25 informed by processes that exist and are successful in

1 the National Parks Service, the U.S. Forest Service
2 and other private businesses to develop and leverage
3 sustainable funding sources. So this is the piece
4 that is intended to, once it is in its complete
5 form -- and unfortunately I don't have it here because
6 it's not ready yet -- a document available on the web
7 and available to be printed to be able to present to
8 members of the public and such to hopefully pique
9 their interest.

10 Also there's an internal piece -- and we
11 decided not to present it here because it's a bunch of
12 cells on a spreadsheet, really. It's not very nice to
13 look at -- but integrating internal budgeting planning
14 and policy so that ground-level field office
15 priorities can be rolled up through the various
16 structures within the Bureau to be able to bring
17 funding to where it's needed. And that's an ongoing
18 process within the BLM to make things more consistent
19 and such. So there's that internal piece and the
20 external piece.

21 MR. BROCKMAN: Since this is a four-year
22 document and funding typically is one or two years, is
23 it going to be compared to fiscal-year budgets and
24 other non-governmental funding sources so that we as a
25 committee can kind of see how this is being achieved

1 over time?

2 MR. HERREMA: That's our intent. This
3 one is a little bit different because of the unique
4 situation of the Monument having so many discrete
5 interests and jurisdictions within its boundaries. So
6 it's a little bit larder to track than if it were just
7 a BLM only or a Forest-Service-only Monument, but our
8 intent is for this to be able to track accomplishment
9 and such and see where the money is coming from and
10 where it's going to or at least facilitate that
11 process.

12 MR. BROCKMAN: I, for one, wouldn't mind
13 seeing your boring cells on the spreadsheet because it
14 fits the pieces of the puzzle together for me.

15 MR. HERREMA: Yeah, yes. The
16 spreadsheet stuff is only for the Bureau. The numbers
17 that I've got for all the other jurisdictions have
18 been provided by the representatives to me. But we
19 just kind of wrapped up the BLM piece on Wednesday, so
20 they are, for lack of a better word, a mess right now.
21 I'll be sending them back to Washington to be made
22 consistent. But with Jim's advice and stuff like
23 that, we can, I'm sure, share that with you.

24 MR. FOOTE: Would you like a copy of
25 that, Bob?

1 MR. BROCKMAN: Certainly.

2 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Probably the rest of
3 the Monument Advisory Committee may as well. When
4 that's in a presentable form, then we'll send that
5 out.

6 MR. HERREMA: Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Other comments? I
8 had one. On Page 2 under "Biological Resources,"
9 second bullet, "Eradicate non-native vegetation,"
10 there seems to be a significant asymmetry in
11 allocation of funds between tamarisk removal on Agua
12 Caliente land. And the Forest Service for the Agua
13 Caliente, you've got ten acres for \$100,000 but the
14 Forest Service gets \$20,000? What am I missing here?
15 Why that significant difference in funding?

16 MR. HERREMA: I'll yield to Margaret.

17 MS. PARK: Well, I can explain Agua
18 Caliente's numbers. Those numbers are based on two
19 things: One, our proposed commitments under our
20 habitat conservation plan that's up for public review
21 right now, and the dollar amount is really based on
22 what we've seen in the field these past two years, how
23 much money it's taken to remove that type of
24 vegetation in our canyons, which are fairly steep.
25 We're limited to hand tools, no huge trucks or

1 bulldozers.

2 So that's what our estimate is, so those
3 are monies that we've shown that the tribe is looking
4 to commit to this effort, not something we're going to
5 be asking for necessarily, say, from the BLM, of
6 course. But if we can find funding that can cover
7 that, great. That's our estimate.

8 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Okay. If this is
9 your estimate based on on-the-ground performance, then
10 that goes back to Jeff's comment earlier that \$20,000
11 is not going to buy you much tamarisk removal on
12 federal lands. So maybe that needs to be bumped up.

13 MR. HERREMA: That's actually a perfect
14 example of what hopefully this will accomplish, and
15 that's to show that because of the limited staffing
16 and fundings and such within particular entities, that
17 there are very limited opportunities to do stuff
18 that's very high priority. And so hopefully we can
19 show that as a-- I think this was presented to me as
20 an assumed level of available funding based on
21 projections of stable and declining budgets.

22 And so be able to project a backlog to say
23 that we only have maybe 20,000 a year do this. That's
24 not going to buy us very much. If that is a priority,
25 then, to be able to communicate that and find funding

1 someplace for it.

2 But I will definitely go back and look at
3 the numbers again and see if I can get a better sense
4 of what we've got versus what we need.

5 MR. MORGAN: Initial comment on tamarisk
6 removal. Fish and Game has a program in effect right
7 now, and I think this month or last month they were
8 making a start on the tamarisk in Cat Creek in there
9 at about \$30,000 that they were going to use up before
10 the end of the year. And the tamarisk in Cat Creek
11 runs about three and a half miles, and I think they
12 said for about 30,000 they could do about 100 yards,
13 so that's the kind of, you know, problem it is.

14 MR. HERREMA: Yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Again under
16 "Biological Resources," the first bullet,
17 "Approve peninsular bighorn sheep habitat," under
18 that, "Extensive cleanup of one spring per year,
19 \$100,000 per year." What does "extensive cleanup"
20 actually mean, and how does that really differ from
21 exotic vegetation removal?

22 MR. HERREMA: Actually --

23 MS. PARK: There's one too many zeroes
24 on that number. Ten thousand dollars is what we
25 estimate to pick up springs, removal of vegetation,

1 you know, set in necessary piping, something to make
2 sure that the facility meets current biological
3 standards in terms of cleanliness of the water,
4 availability, make sure enough vegetation is removed
5 so you're not setting up a situation where the sheep
6 would be preyed upon, that sort of thing.

7 So "extensive" is a descriptive word. We
8 can certainly remove it if it's bothersome, but I can
9 tell you 10,000 a year is based on our real-life
10 experience.

11 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Yeah. If you knock
12 off the one "zero," it makes it look a lot better.

13 MR. HERREMA: That's why I'm glad we're
14 meeting here today.

15 MR. CRITES: If we do that, you won't
16 have enough money for the decorative rock walls.

17 MS. PARK: Well, we'll live without
18 them.

19 MR. UNDERWOOD: I'd just like to make
20 one comment. I happened to attend ACWA this week,
21 which is the California Association of Water Agencies,
22 and there was a lot of discussion this week about the
23 tamarisk and the fact that that uses a lot of water in
24 California. So they as a group were interested in
25 looking at this issue as well.

1 And also in terms of the education in
2 communities, in terms of guide books and such, the
3 local water district has spent a lot of money
4 producing this whole emphasis on lush and efficient
5 plants. And they also are part of funding the Water
6 Education Foundation, and there might be some segways
7 between organizations to do something with those
8 groups.

9 So you might want to talk to -- ACWA, of
10 course, is based in Sacramento, and so is their
11 education foundation, which has been in existence for
12 30 years. And those agencies all fund. And water, of
13 course, is a huge issue in California, so you might
14 want to try to segway and coordinate with those
15 agencies for funding and for the purposes of dealing
16 with some of these issues. They're all interested in
17 saving water as well. So you might want to look at
18 that.

19 MR. HERREMA: And ACWA, are they just
20 A-Q-U-A?

21 MR. UNDERWOOD: It's A-C-W-A. It's the
22 association of all the water districts in the state of
23 California. Not all of them are members, but most of
24 them are. And of course, Imperial Irrigation District
25 is the most powerful because it has the first rights

1 to the water in California based on history, and then
2 the local water district is, like, third in line for
3 power in terms of control of water in Southern
4 California.

5 So anyway, you might want to look at all of
6 those issues related to -- because really what we're
7 talking about here is water to a large degree in terms
8 of tamarisk, and it's all connected, obviously.

9 MR. HERREMA: Great. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Further comments?
11 There being none, let us move on. DFO to discuss --

12 MR. HERREMA: If I could just wrap-up
13 real quick, just to let you know, my next steps will
14 be to continue to move forward on the document, the
15 physical communication strategy itself. This Power
16 Point is just a tool for meetings and stuff, but I'll
17 be able to provide those when we report on them. So
18 thank you very much for your time.

19 MR. FOOTE: Doug is on his way to the
20 UCLA-USC game.

21 MR. HERREMA: I am.

22 MR. FOOTE: So that's why he's first on
23 the agenda today.

24 MR. HERREMA: Thank you very much.

25 MR. UNDERWOOD: USC or UCLA?

1 MR. HERREMA: This is off the record.
2 My family is split. I root for USC in football and
3 UCLA in basketball, so I'll be rooting for the Trojans
4 today.

5 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Back on the record.
6 Okay.

7 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Agenda item to
8 discuss the advisory committee charter. Last
9 confirmation I received was that the Secretary of the
10 Interior has signed the charter, and it's in the
11 Department of Agriculture for concurrence at this
12 point. As I reported in previous meetings, we have a
13 little different approach to the charter at this point
14 in time, in that following the BLM policy or, in fact,
15 federal policy, I understand on this at this point, we
16 are looking at having separate charter and separate
17 bylaws and standard operating procedures. And the
18 bylaws and standard operating procedures are really in
19 the purview of each of the advisory committees. I
20 provided you a draft copy of that.

21 Clearly, since we don't have a quorum, we
22 cannot approve that today. But I would ask if there
23 are any comments on the committee bylaws and standard
24 operating procedures, that we could take those at this
25 point, or you could certainly submit those later.

1 Hopefully we can approve this document at the March
2 meeting.

3 I do want to point out, as I indicated in
4 the letter I sent you where I transmitted a bunch of
5 the paperwork on this, that the bylaws indicate that
6 the election of the committee chair and vice chair
7 occurs at the first meeting of the calendar year. We
8 are going to do that today. It would be the choice of
9 the advisory committee at which meeting it would like
10 to do that. Since we cannot do it today, obviously
11 we're, by default, moving to the first meeting of the
12 calendar year as specified in the bylaws for the
13 election.

14 So I guess we'll just keep it at that for
15 now, but willing to entertain any other comments you
16 might have on the bylaws and standard operating
17 procedures. Once I do get the charter, I'll go ahead
18 and send that around to everyone so you can review
19 that. That, of course, goes through various channels
20 as it works its way up through the Interior and
21 Agriculture departments. And once, of course, that's
22 signed, it's in place for two years, and it's
23 essentially set in stone. We don't have any ability
24 to modify the charter until such time that it comes up
25 for renewal again. But the bylaws and standard

1 operating procedures are ours to work with.

2 Any comments on the bylaws?

3 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Two at least.

4 MR. FOOTE: Bob?

5 MR. BROCKMAN: On Page 3 under "Quorum
6 and Voting Requirements," the sentence is confusing.
7 It says, "Operations of the committee shall not be
8 impaired by the fact that a member has not been
9 appointed as long as a quorum has been attained."

10 Does anyone else have the same confusion
11 with that? It seems to me a person isn't a member
12 unless they have been appointed. So how could a
13 member not being appointed occur for the meeting? It
14 does not make sense to me.

15 MR. FOOTE: To clarify, this would be a
16 situation, had we actually had a quorum today, where
17 this would apply, we do have three vacancies on the
18 advisory committee where no appointments have been
19 made. Therefore the pool from which we would pull a
20 quorum at this point in time is 12. So we must have
21 eight of 12 members present. It isn't a quorum of the
22 members; it's a quorum of the possible field of
23 representatives, of which there are 15 for the
24 Monument Advisory Committee.

25 So this is essentially saying that even

43

1 though we don't have any appointments for the three
2 vacancies at this point in time, we still can have a
3 quorum, that we're not impaired by that. Clearly we
4 could have -- let's say we lapsed.

5 MR. CRITES: Into what?

6 MR. FOOTE: Let's say we lapsed seven --
7 as an example, seven of the appointments. So our pool
8 of applicants essentially would be eight. We'd have
9 seven vacancies, eight appointments. We would still
10 need a quorum of eight. All eight members would have
11 to attend for us to vote. In other words, a quorum is
12 not constituted of a majority of those that are
13 appointed. It's a majority of the possible
14 appointees.

15 MR. CRITES: That one sentence, "A
16 quorum consists of a majority of those," like that, is
17 what that ought to say.

18 MR. FOOTE: Okay. I'll revise that.

19 MR. MORGAN: Is there some rule that
20 says a quorum has to be based on the total number of
21 possible appointments, or is it just something you've
22 come up with?

23 MR. FOOTE: No. This is -- I will check
24 into that further. My understanding is -- and
25 unfortunately, unless anybody else does have a copy of

1 the legislation with them, I believe it was identified
2 in the enabling legislation for the Monument that a
3 quorum consists of eight members. If that's the case,
4 we have no latitude. If the charter does not speak to
5 this and it's only contained in bylaws, then we do
6 have latitude, but I don't believe we do.

7 By the way, this particular sentence was
8 pulled out of the previous charter, I believe. So I
9 did not make this sentence up. It already had been
10 constructed. I just reiterated it here. But since
11 this is now our document, we can change it as we feel
12 necessary for clarification, and we'll do so.

13 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Jeff?

14 MR. MORGAN: Let's see. Go back to
15 Page 1, "General Requirements," last paragraph,
16 "Committee members may not serve concurrently on more
17 than one committee chair." Is that a requirement
18 under federal regulation, or is that something that
19 just appeared in this?

20 MR. FOOTE: Again much of this language
21 was pulled from previous documents, and I'll pursue
22 that. Do you know of an instance where someone is
23 serving on more than one?

24 MR. MORGAN: No, but I was thinking
25 of --

1 MR. FOOTE: Of applying to be on another
2 one?

3 MR. MORGAN: To another one, yes.

4 MR. FOOTE: Okay. I will clarify that.

5 MR. MORGAN: So before I go ahead and
6 apply, I'd like to know if it's something that would
7 really be a conflict.

8 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Buford?

9 MR. CRITES: A question. Congresswoman
10 Bono has a piece of legislation that's ending the
11 Monument boundaries and all kind of other things.
12 Would it be possible to, in that legislation, ask for
13 a minor change in our Monument legislation that would
14 make a quorum a majority of those currently appointed,
15 because what's there now is obviously dumb. I mean,
16 nobody would try to defend vacant positions as being
17 part of the requirement for a quorum.

18 MR. MORGAN: It's pretty hard to change
19 a legislation when it's gone this far, though it's not
20 impossible. If we think that's something that needs
21 to be done, someone would have to contact Chris Foster
22 with a written insertion of what the text should be
23 and request that that be placed within the
24 legislation, though it's a bit late at this stage
25 because it's been through a committee. It can be

1 changed in the reconciliation process when the Senate
2 version is introduced. And between Bono's staff and
3 Boxer's staff, they could insert such language.

4 MR. BROCKMAN: Since it seems to be the
5 lack of appointment that's creating quorum problems,
6 which would take longer, this revision to the
7 legislation or the completion of the appointments?

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. MORGAN: Completion of the
10 appointments.

11 MR. CRITES: Completion of the
12 appointments doesn't solve the problem.

13 MR. MORGAN: Because it changes every
14 year.

15 MR. CRITES: Every time you have more
16 vacancies, you have the same darned issue.

17 MR. MORGAN: That's right. So I mean,
18 this is an ongoing problem that will come to new --

19 MR. BROCKMAN: I agree with you. I
20 think there ought to be some effort to change that
21 constriction.

22 MR. MORGAN: Jim said he would look at
23 it and maybe it wouldn't need to be changed. Maybe,
24 maybe not. So we'll find out. And then we could
25 draft a text line and talk to --

1 MR. CRITES: I will work with you on
2 doing that if, Jim, you would chat with Jeff about
3 whether we do have flexibility, and if we don't, where
4 the specific thing is. We'll see what we can do.

5 MR. FOOTE: That will be an easy check.
6 I should have brought a management plan with me, but
7 it's simple to look into legislation to either see
8 that language or not and then look at the current
9 draft charter as moved forward and whether that
10 contains that language as well. But I'll check into
11 that.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Further comments?
13 There being none, the next item -- got that?

14 MR. FOOTE: Yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: The next item,
16 election of advisory committee chair and vice chair.
17 As indicated, we certainly can't do that today. I
18 would note that, as you ruminate on nominations for
19 the March meeting, our esteemed leader, Terry, has
20 indicated that she'll stand for another term.

21 MR. CRITES: Or would be willing to.

22 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Would be willing to.
23 Any other comments in that particular area? Next
24 item, advisory committee performance review. Take it
25 away, Jim.

1 MR. FOOTE: This relates exactly to the
2 situation we have today which we've just discussed,
3 and that is, lack of a quorum today constitutes the
4 third of the last four meetings where we have not had
5 a quorum. So the question is, how do we make
6 membership on the advisory committee more meaningful
7 to generate better attendance?

8 I had a short discussion with Bill Havert
9 the other day in this regard, and he suggested that we
10 should reconvene the steering working group to address
11 this issue and report back to the larger committee.

12 Clearly, no one wants to just come meetings
13 for meetings' sake. There needs to be a reason for
14 coming, and probably the reason has to do with
15 weighting in on some meaningful tasks to get something
16 done and not simply listening to a bunch of reports
17 and going from there.

18 So I would suggest that we address this
19 issue through the steering working group and then
20 report back to the Monument Advisory Committee. But
21 certainly willing to entertain any thoughts anyone
22 might have about how we might generate some greater
23 attendance here through changing either structure or
24 process or whatever it may take for committee
25 meetings.

1 MR. MORGAN: Penalties for
2 non-attendance.

3 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: What's that?

4 MR. MORGAN: Penalties.

5 MR. CRITES: If you don't show, you
6 can't come to the next one.

7 MR. MORGAN: Well, I think in the
8 original, when this thing was set up, if you missed
9 more than two meetings in a row, you lost your right
10 to be a member of this advisory committee. That's how
11 we originally started.

12 MR. FOOTE: As I recall, the designated
13 federal official has that option to then essentially
14 revoke the membership of that individual. It's never
15 been done to this point as far as I know, despite the
16 fact that, as you can see, for some, the most
17 prominent one being the representative for the
18 building industry that the individual had been
19 appointed -- and the last meeting attended was June of
20 '05 -- and did not attend the subsequent seven
21 meetings. And that would have been a period in which
22 we could have revoked that membership and, again,
23 tried to get a new appointment.

24 But looking at the time frames, of course,
25 for reappointment, it takes roughly a year from the

1 time we submit a federal register opening at call to
2 the time when the appointment is made. It's a very
3 cumbersome process. We prefer to lump these together
4 whenever possible to try to cover the most nominations
5 at the same time as we can as opposed to going one by
6 one just because of that timeframe.

7 Well taken. We could, in fact, invoke that
8 revocation.

9 MR. BROCKMAN: I, for one, don't think a
10 penalty including revocation of membership is going to
11 solve a problem, unless you have people who are
12 standing in line waiting to fill those positions,
13 which doesn't seem to be the case. I think there
14 ought to be more of a positive reinforcement for
15 attendance rather than a penalty for non-attendance,
16 and that probably gets to the issue of agenda items
17 that are being considered during the meetings as part
18 of the attraction of wanting to attend.

19 MR. FOOTE: Let me throw this out as
20 well: We've been meeting quarterly. Do we have
21 enough substance to, in fact, continue meeting
22 quarterly, or should the larger committee meet less
23 frequently and work in the group more frequently?

24 MR. MORGAN: That may be an option.
25 Also when we used to get free lunches, we used to get

1 a lot more people attending.

2 MR. FOOTE: Well, that's a balancing
3 act. I think my response to that has been to what
4 I've heard, and people would prefer that we move this
5 along quicker as opposed to making the meetings
6 longer, so we incorporate lunch during which we get no
7 business done, and we all get out of here later. I
8 think I've heard fairly clearly that folks would
9 prefer to move it along faster, and we'd get out
10 earlier.

11 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Who is on the
12 steering committee? Do we know who those individuals
13 are?

14 MR. FOOTE: Yes. The steering committee
15 is chaired by Buford. It also has membership of Terry
16 Henderson, Jeff Morgan and Barbara Lyons Gonzalez. It
17 is open, so we've had additional attendance, including
18 Bill Havert, who's been there on occasion. Any of the
19 members and the public are welcome to attend those
20 meetings; they're not closed meetings. But in terms
21 of official, it's the four individuals, I think, as
22 indicated. And that was based on determination by the
23 advisory committee many meetings ago.

24 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: How many active work
25 groups do we have at this time?

1 MR. FOOTE: That is the only one.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: That is the only one.

3 So what your proposal was, was that they meet
4 quarterly -- the steering committee would meet
5 quarterly, and the rest of the organization would meet
6 twice a year. What would it be?

7 MR. MORGAN: I think he said that the
8 steering committee would meet as necessary and report
9 back to the advisory -- the full advisory committee at
10 the regular meetings.

11 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Which would be twice
12 a year.

13 MR. MORGAN: He didn't say that.

14 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: That's what I got out
15 of it.

16 MR. FOOTE: I just indicated less
17 frequently than four times a year, whatever that may
18 mean.

19 MR. UNDERWOOD: I think if you've ever
20 done a survey of why people attend and what their
21 interests are and why they don't attend -- in looking
22 at what the motivation is or behavior related to -- I
23 mean, obviously you've got both an appointee and an
24 alternate, and I'm thinking maybe you should ask the
25 people, why don't they attend, what would motivate

1 them to attend and maybe look at that directly rather
2 than -- because right now you don't have enough people
3 here to really get a good answer for that among this
4 group. I don't know.

5 MR. FOOTE: Well, it's a good idea,
6 Bruce. In fact on the 14th of December I will be
7 meeting with Ric Service, who did resign, and I think
8 to also gain a better appreciation of perhaps what
9 might have kept him more interested.

10 MR. UNDERWOOD: Right.

11 MR. CRITES: He came to one or two
12 meetings, so that's -- the point is, you can't cater
13 to a person who showed for a meeting, and I think he
14 resigned from transport as well; right?

15 MR. LADLEY: Yes, he did.

16 MR. CRITES: I don't know why he's not
17 here. It's not necessarily connected to anything at
18 all that has to do with this.

19 MR. FOOTE: This has to do with response
20 from recommendation by Sharon Apfelbaum to talk with
21 him about this very issue, so I'm responding to that.
22 Whether it will yield anything useful will be
23 determined.

24 MR. CRITES: Also note right now we
25 don't have alternates legally.

1 MR. UNDERWOOD: You don't?

2 MR. MORGAN: We're awaiting the process.

3 MR. FOOTE: I will address that as this
4 next agenda item comes up.

5 MR. CRITES: And if you look at the page
6 that has the attendance, it really comes down to about
7 three groups, and then the fact that they count
8 against the quorum, that makes this happen. So if you
9 fix the quorum issue and you have alternates, probably
10 it would solve the problem. That doesn't address Al's
11 issue about -- or your issue about whether this large
12 group needs to meet four times a year. That's a
13 different issue. But the solving of a quorum is
14 primarily, I think, a procedural issue.

15 MR. FOOTE: Well, let me ask the
16 question again. In terms of looking at creating more
17 meaning or looking at that particular issue, is it
18 this group's recommendation that we do convene the
19 working group to address this and report back to the
20 larger committee?

21 MR. CRITES: Sure.

22 MR. LYMAN: I think that's reasonable.
23 Come up with something that says, instead of beating
24 dead horses all the time.

25 MR. FOOTE: Fair enough. I will then

1 communicate with working group and identify some
2 available dates at which we could then meet.

3 MR. MORGAN: I think one of the reasons
4 there are several people missing today is that it's
5 the time of year that the holiday season has started.
6 People are busy vacationing, shopping, doing other
7 things.

8 MR. FOOTE: But the last December
9 meeting in '06, we did have a quorum as well as the
10 '05 December meeting. So this is, in fact, the first
11 December meeting where we have not had a quorum.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I wonder how much of
13 this is really lack of interest on the part of the
14 cities as opposed to the individual who just chooses
15 not to attend. Looking at the various colored blocks
16 might be -- looks like it might be the jurisdiction
17 more than the individual.

18 MR. FOOTE: Let me just say, too,
19 from -- and I appreciate Bruce being here from the
20 City of Indian Wells. Both Bruce and Corrie Kates
21 have been in regular communication or indicating a
22 strong desire to participate.

23 We just need to get through the darned
24 nomination process. So we would have seen checks
25 under the Indian wells column had we not had these

1 procedural difficulties. Palm Springs, that's a
2 little different issue. And Terry has, of course,
3 been very much in attendance with the exception of
4 today and in September, but she retains a considerable
5 interest and commitment to the advisory committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Anymore discussion?
7 Okay. Advisory committee nomination, slash,
8 appointments.

9 MR. FOOTE: This segways pretty much
10 from what we just talked about. The last
11 indication -- well, let me give you a little
12 background on the back and forth we've had of moving
13 federal register notices forward. Since we recognize
14 the desire to have alternates is high, I had forwarded
15 a federal register notice based on understanding that
16 we could, in fact, seek alternates as long as the MAC
17 charter indicating a desire -- or recognizing
18 alternates as a functioning element of the advisory
19 committee as long as these alternates were not
20 approved prior to the approval of the charter. But we
21 could, in fact, solicit the nominations, move those
22 forward.

23 So I had sent a federal register notice
24 forward in that regard opening nominations for
25 alternates in the primaries that were to expire you

1 only to have that turned back to me and say, "No.
2 Don't do that. Now we want you only to submit a
3 register notice for the primaries. Hold off on the
4 alternates." So I did that.

5 That notice went forward in October. You
6 have a copy of the draft notice that does that, which
7 identifies which primary members are seeking
8 nomination for. They're for the ones that resigned,
9 the City of Indian Wells and Winter Park Authority and
10 also the ones that expired, the local developer and
11 builder organization. But at the same time since the
12 next five -- Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, the tribe,
13 UCR and Pinyon Community Council -- expire in December
14 of 2008, those are also included in this notice that
15 went forward, acknowledging it takes roughly a year to
16 move this forward.

17 I also provided the timeframe for MAC
18 appointments in your package. I've done this before,
19 where essentially it's Step 2 on this, the commission
20 of the federal notice to the Washington office from
21 our state office. Apparently it's going through the
22 system now. So as of the other day, though, I checked
23 federal register. There's been no publication yet. I
24 would expect it would occur before December is
25 concluded, at which point that opens the call for

1 nominations.

2 We go on to the third bullet -- or actually
3 the fourth bullet after the notice is published, that,
4 and your list shows day 284, meaning there's about 284
5 days from that period to the point where the approvals
6 actually occur.

7 It's a mind-numbing process. It's
8 incredibly slow. As we acknowledged previously, it
9 takes roughly, I think, six months from once we send
10 the nomination packages that I've received to the
11 state office to the point where they actually get
12 approved. It's a long process. It's nothing we
13 really have control of. At this point it is what it
14 is.

15 I'm hoping again that by the end of
16 December, we will have the publication for the opening
17 call for nominations for these eight positions, and
18 then we can at least move that forward. And once the
19 charter is approved, which again I hope is this month,
20 then I'll resubmit another nomination or another
21 federal register notice that calls for all the
22 alternates for all 15 positions. So we'll open up
23 that nomination process as well. It's been a long
24 time coming.

25 Any comments on that or questions about

1 where that process is or anything else? Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Next item on the
3 agenda would be public comments at 11. I see no
4 members of the public, so we should recess for ten
5 minutes.

6 MR. BROCKMAN: Why don't we just move on
7 to those items following 11 and then go back.

8 MR. MORGAN: To public comments at 11.

9 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Which is -- oh, okay.
10 I forgot how to read a watch. Maybe I need the sun
11 dial. Anyway. Okay. Moving on, Vista Point.

12 MR. FOOTE: For those that have driven
13 by Vista Point recently, you'll see they're nearing
14 completion. I included in the packet an article from
15 the Press Enterprise from October 22nd which addresses
16 the redevelopment but also gives some interesting
17 background and history just for your interest. Once
18 that site is completed, at a minimum, we will be
19 undertaking and adopt a highway program for at least
20 the trash collection. Lee is going to be involved
21 significantly in that.

22 I'm holding off a little on the graffiti
23 issue. I'm a little concerned, based on the materials
24 they're using, whether this is going to be easy or
25 tremendously difficult. And if this is tagged and it

1 proves to be a difficult issue to deal with the
2 graffiti, then I think Caltrans needs to take care of
3 that themselves.

4 MR. CRITES: Which they won't.

5 MR. FOOTE: Well, they have shown, at
6 least when I met with them before, a fairly fast
7 response to previous graffiti. I had met with a
8 couple of folks from both the local Indio office and
9 one from San Bernardino on the site, and the day
10 before we met -- or actually the site had been tagged
11 earlier that week. They had already removed that. We
12 met that day. It had been tagged again, and by the
13 end of the day, they had another crew on their way up
14 to deal with that. So I'm hoping they can continue to
15 address this expeditiously.

16 My concern is the materials they're using
17 in that stone facing, and if someone is to spray
18 paint, that I'm curious as to how they're going to
19 deal with graffiti and removing it. Traditionally
20 their method has been to paint over. It doesn't work
21 real well on rough rock surfaces. So I'm not real
22 encouraged at this point to undertake the adoption on
23 the graffiti side, but we'll certainly deal with the
24 trash issue.

25 But it looks like it's nearing completion,

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1 and I would expect it to be done within -- well, this
2 month, probably, by the looks of it. As you can see,
3 it's a fairly high-cost project. Based on this Press
4 Enterprise article, it's almost a \$900,000
5 redevelopment project.

6 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Moving on?

7 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh. Next item is the
8 new Monument trails map brochure. On the trails map
9 we met this last Wednesday with the participating
10 parties in that. Just to refresh memories, Wildlands
11 Conservancy -- pardon me. Let me back that up.

12 MR. CRITES: Wilderness Society.

13 MR. FOOTE: Wilderness Society is very
14 much in the forefront on this effort providing
15 staffing and funding as is the Agua Caliente band of
16 Cahuilla Indians. We're also probably going to get
17 monies from the City of Palm Desert. The Friends of
18 Desert Mountains with the Southern California Edison
19 grant are also partners. So this is very much a
20 partnership effort moving forward. We're hoping to
21 have the trails map to the printer by February 1st,
22 and I'll explain why that date becomes significant.

23 The brochure, again we're moving forward
24 with that. We met with Palm Springs Life magazine,
25 who is working on the layout. That occurred this last

1 Wednesday as well. We're getting mock-ups that we're
2 continuing to revise in terms of text, imagery,
3 getting down to paper type, how it folds, all those
4 kinds of issues that are prominent in developing
5 brochures. And our target date for completion of that
6 is also February 1st to have it done and printed.

7 And the reason for that is, that's the
8 commitment now on the Southern California Edison
9 roll-out date for the grant to the Friends of the
10 Desert Mountains in Support of the National Monument
11 with a commitment by Mary Bono and likely others to
12 attend. So we intend to have this brochure down and
13 ready to be presented by that date.

14 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Will that brochure be
15 available in electronic format?

16 MR. FOOTE: We're hoping it will.

17 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: A website or
18 something?

19 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Next item, Santa Rosa
20 Mountain facility review. Just two days ago we
21 visited the site. John Ladley led that effort.
22 Buford was in attendance. Jeff was in attendance.
23 Lee was in attendance.

24 MR. BEYER: I was in attendance.

25 MR. FOOTE: Doug Herrema was in

1 attendance. We had the ranger Larry Rosenthal
2 attending. Our Palm Springs field manager, John
3 Kalish, was in attendance, so it was a good group to
4 get input on how to move forward with the facility's
5 development retrofit at Santa Rosa Mountain.

6 I think the key take-away message is this:
7 We do want to continue providing the experiences that
8 are already provided there, and we just need some
9 facility upgrades to ensure that experience is a
10 quality one.

11 And John, I'd ask if you have anything else
12 to add to that, please do so.

13 MR. LADLEY: Well, the level of interest
14 in the attendance is severely appreciated. I think we
15 had some really good discussions, and just the
16 feedback that I got from the group was really useful
17 from my perspective, are we on the right track or not?

18 You know, I think one of the take-home
19 messages is that I think we're all in general
20 agreement that we want to continue to offer that type,
21 that level of experience, and there's been a lot of
22 interest and support from that. We'll continue to
23 offer that but put the quality back into it, not
24 really change the experience, per se, but it's to
25 improve the quality of it.

1 So that part I found really useful, and I
2 sincerely appreciate everyone's attendance and input.
3 The next steps will be, how do we get from here to
4 there?

5 MR. FOOTE: In terms of process moving
6 forward, we are at BLM filling an outdoor recreation
7 planner position shortly. The individual who has
8 accepted the position should be on board fairly
9 shortly, although we don't have a date for that. I
10 would anticipate in January. And through our
11 service-first agreement, although that is a BLM
12 employee, that individual will be taking the lead on
13 this project to move it forward.

14 MR. MORGAN: I would like to point out
15 how we got here from where we were before. And this
16 came about as the Forest Service made a presentation
17 to the steering committee indicating that they were
18 going to remove and decommission all of the facilities
19 on Santa Rosa Mountain as part of a general budget
20 adjustment process. And we as a steering committee
21 let the Forest Service know that we didn't think that
22 was a very good idea, and we went on from there to get
23 it to where the whole thing is now moving forward to
24 improve the situation and not to remove the
25 facilities.

1 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Mr. Crites?

2 MR. CRITES: I think it's worth noting
3 that probably about three weeks ago the new supervisor
4 from the National Forest for San Bernardino National
5 Forest took a Saturday and she and her husband went up
6 and toured the mountain on their own just so they
7 could see it.

8 And so whether it's informal, such as that,
9 or if it's formal, what the Forest Service is doing
10 now, I think the Forest Service needs to be commended
11 for honestly really focusing time and energy and
12 thought to this end of the National Forest. And it's
13 been wonderful to see U.C. have the opportunity to
14 extend its vision not just at the canyon and Pinyon
15 but now up to the top of the transect, if you will,
16 and be working on the cabin and doing some research
17 opportunities up there.

18 So you've got Forest Service. You've got
19 university. You've got the Monument and everything.
20 And I think it's really a very positive set of steps
21 for an area that has really been a stepchild of
22 everyone in the past.

23 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Well said,
24 Mr. Crites.

25 MR. FOOTE: Do you want to dispense with

1 this? We have time.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Is it 10:39?

3 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: You can't read a
5 watch either.

6 MR. FOOTE: Thank you. Next agenda item
7 is Dunn Road status. Buford asked that this be put on
8 the agenda.

9 I provided several pieces of background
10 information which you have seen before, for the most
11 part, or I think almost -- well, in its entirety, in
12 fact. What we have in front of you are the
13 appropriate transcript portions from the December 2nd,
14 2006 meeting, the September 9th, 2006 meeting, also a
15 separate sheet that looks at planning decisions and
16 how those relate to federal regulations relative to
17 Dunn Road and advisory committee determinations.

18 Going back to the September 9th, 2006
19 agency determination, again, on a separate sheet,
20 relative to Dunn Road, in interpreting what the
21 California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for
22 the Coachella Valley meant when it indicated that the
23 Dunn Road would be managed for administrative
24 purposes; the Dunn Road engineering report, which
25 outlines the approximate costs of the work to be done;

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1 and just three other sheets, a couple of the Valley
2 Voice pieces in the Desert Sun from September 4th,
3 2001 and September 14th, 2001 from Jeff Morgan and
4 Frank Bogart, which provided just for no other purpose
5 than to show there are different points of view of how
6 to proceed on this issue, that this is not something
7 that, regardless of how we proceed, that everyone will
8 be in agreement.

9 And on the last sheet, the color page does
10 not have a north arrow. However, it is a map in the
11 landscape position. Hopefully you'll see which is the
12 up and which is the down. And you can recognize,
13 then, that the Forest Service lands in green are to
14 the left in general and the BLM lands in yellow are to
15 the right in general.

16 This depicts what is currently existing
17 designated critical habitat for peninsular bighorn
18 sheep. The blue line is the current proposal by the
19 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on critical habitat
20 designation for which they're soliciting comments.

21 The reason I provided this, although it's
22 not depicted here, is that you can see that a large
23 portion of what is the Dunn Road on BLM lands would be
24 excluded from the proposed critical habitat
25 designation. This does not mean that sheep still --

1 that that reduces our need to consult with the
2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on peninsular bighorn
3 sheep issues. It simply points to the issues that are
4 linked to the destruction or adverse modification of
5 critical habitat. We would still be required, because
6 it may affect bighorn sheep, to consult with Fish and
7 Wildlife on any issue.

8 But I provide that just as an information
9 piece. I would point you to the federal register
10 notice that does, in fact, address the proposal. That
11 federal register notice is dated October 10th, 2007.
12 Again comments are being solicited relative to that.
13 The comment period does, in fact, close -- pardon my
14 delay -- on December 10th, 2007.

15 One of the issues also being solicited here
16 by Fish and Wildlife Service is not just comments on
17 what's proposed here. They are also soliciting
18 comments on whether federal lands managed by the
19 Bureau of Land Management and state land managed by
20 the California Department of Fish and Game should also
21 be considered for exclusion of critical habitat based
22 on the agency's status as partners to the Coachella
23 Valley MSHCP through a memorandum of understanding.

24 MR. CRITES: And comments on that end on
25 December 13th, I think.

1 MR. MORGAN: I'd have to look.

2 MR. CRITES: I looked this morning at
3 the federal register notice. That closes three days
4 later.

5 MR. FOOTE: Okay. So again I'm just
6 bringing this to your attention only because of the
7 proposed boundary, which does exclude the large
8 majority of federal lands on Dunn Road from the
9 critical habitat designation. What that means in the
10 end is certainly not clear at this point.

11 Updates, though. I think the key pieces
12 here go back to the two transcripts. If you look at
13 the September 9th transcript, a couple of key points
14 there is, of course, we made the determination that,
15 in fact, managing Dunn Road for administrative
16 purposes including -- it includes maintenance as well.

17 However, the key is that determinations
18 regarding implementation of the decision to do so are
19 based on the agency's capability to do so, including
20 availability of funding, staff capabilities in light
21 of workload and consideration of other factors that
22 may have a bearing on implementation.

23 With that said, there was a meeting of the
24 steering subcommittee, and the determination was to
25 see if there was other funding available, at which

1 point Buford sent a letter out to six interested
2 parties, did receive a response back from three of
3 those. Essentially the message there was, there's
4 willingness to participate, that the access to Dunn
5 Road through the Pinyon community versus the lower
6 section, due to some private land constraints, was
7 okay, but the availability of funding was essentially
8 not to be there.

9 Is that your recollection?

10 MR. CRITES: No. Several of the
11 organizations said they'd be willing to consider
12 funding.

13 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. CRITES: If there was a proposal.
15 So the reason I asked for this to be on there is to
16 find out where the Monument is in terms of a proposal.

17 MR. FOOTE: I think what was recommended
18 at the December 2nd meeting, unfortunately slipped
19 through the cracks and becomes I think, another agenda
20 item for the steering group. And I'll just read from
21 the record there that, "It would be the recommendation
22 of the steering committee that we simply reconvene
23 this group," meaning the steering subcommittee, "and
24 innovate these agencies" -- and those are the ones
25 that did not respond -- "to see what resources they

1 may have and what they would be willing to do." That
2 did not occur.

3 I would like to add that to the agenda that
4 deals with the meaningfulness, let's say, of the MAC
5 meetings and make this a meeting with some real
6 substance to it. And I'll identify some dates that
7 that group can get together. And I think another part
8 of that, then, will be to contact these particular
9 organizations and invite them to attend as well to see
10 if we can get some feedback from them.

11 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Jeff.

12 MR. MORGAN: It should be noted that in
13 the new tribal plan for the area, they have withdrawn
14 any need for access to Dunn Road from either the top
15 or the bottom, and they've taken it completely out of
16 their plan. So they believe that the area should
17 remain natural, and I have a copy of the letter that I
18 can circulate where they explain that to us.

19 MR. FOOTE: Did you say that was in the
20 tribal plan?

21 MR. MORGAN: Well, when they point out
22 in the draft we made comments regarding various items,
23 Dunn Road being one of them, and they responded with a
24 letter saying they thanked us for our comments and
25 that they no longer seek Dunn Road as access to any of

1 their tribal lands.

2 MR. FOOTE: Did they include that
3 response in the document?

4 MR. MORGAN: It's in there, yes.

5 MR. FOOTE: It is?

6 MR. MORGAN: Yes. So another comment,
7 too. We had about two inches of rain upon there
8 yesterday. That's more than the amount we had when
9 the major damage was done to Dunn Road. So your
10 engineering figures may need readjusting. I will be
11 going up there in the next week or so, and I will keep
12 you updated if you want.

13 MR. FOOTE: Yes, please. Thank you.

14 Any other further discussion on Dunn Road
15 as to how we should proceed?

16 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Friends of Desert
17 Mountains.

18 MR. FOOTE: Friends of Desert Mountains
19 report. Scott Segal, who presented a report last
20 time, is engaged in a program today, is unable to
21 attend. It's fair to say the programs are moving
22 along very quickly. They're very successful. The
23 Friends is continuing its Thursday-morning hike
24 program, family excursion program. The fourth-grade
25 educational program is moving along well.

1 And Buford, if you have anything else to
2 add as a boardmember of the Friends to that, I'd
3 appreciate it.

4 MR. CRITES: Only that Jim will be
5 sending out an announcement to all of the MAC members
6 for the February 1st to-do at the visitors' center, I
7 think Mary Bono and perhaps Senator Boxer both being
8 there and others too. One, the president of Edison,
9 will want to announce their quarter-million-dollar
10 grant to Friends for upgrading the visitors' center
11 and for the trails map and so on and so on and so
12 forth; and then a number of other parties who have
13 made significant monetary commitments, including the
14 County of Riverside, over the next three years for
15 trails money on the north side of the valley and
16 granite construction; a couple of realty firms and all
17 of that with some other monies to support the
18 Monument; and hopefully then also being able to roll
19 out the new Monument map, finally, as well as other
20 things.

21 It will be just a wonderful morning for
22 members of this committee to be there and to share and
23 some very, very good things and some really neat stuff
24 that will be different in the visitors' center as well
25 as topographic model of the whole Monument and some

1 fancy electronic foolishness that gets you on and off
2 trails, whatever that is, and solar panels on the roof
3 and so on, and so on, and so on. Neat stuff.

4 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Will there be a
5 Luddite section for you?

6 MR. CRITES: There should be. Honestly
7 I pay for maps.

8 THE REPORTER: I did not hear that term.

9 MR. CRITES: Luddites, scholars in
10 training.

11 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: You'd best Google
12 that term.

13 MR. FOOTE: Closing it? Other BLM and
14 Forest Service actions. What I would like to bring to
15 you folks' attention are two documents from the County
16 of Riverside Transportation Land Management Agency.
17 One is a follow-up to the issues that MAC heard about
18 at the last December meeting from the folks out at
19 Snow Creek in large part, and that involves the
20 development of that private land for a wind turbine
21 development at Fingle's Finger. There is going to be
22 a scoping session meeting on December 17th at 2:30 at
23 Riverside -- in Riverside at 4080 Lemon Street in the
24 twelfth-floor conference room.

25 This is the Brad Adams proposal to develop

1 wind turbines along Fingle's Finger. Again, as
2 indicated at the Monument Advisory Committee of a year
3 ago, the Monument Advisory Committee does not have any
4 jurisdiction in that regard. It's a private-land
5 issue. This is a follow-up that that is proceeding.

6 MR. MORGAN: Comment on that. The
7 project doesn't just put a few windmills on Fingle's
8 Finger. It goes up to 4,080 feet on the Cabazon ridge
9 on the north face of Mt. San Jacinto. For them to do
10 that, they would need a right-of-way from BLM. So in
11 that way, there is some involvement, because BLM land
12 is within the National Monument.

13 MR. FOOTE: Correct. There is a federal
14 nexus to this. The timing and how we respond to the
15 application for right-of-way depends largely on how
16 the county is going to proceed, whether there is, in
17 fact, a viable project. So that's still to be
18 determined.

19 MR. MORGAN: Would this need an EIS from
20 a joint EIS-EIR, or would you just do it as an E.A.?

21 MR. FOOTE: It's still to be determined.
22 An environmental assessment's primary function is to
23 determine whether an EIS is needed. Oftentimes we
24 move forward with an EIS when we know good and well
25 that the E.A. will determine that an EIS is needed.

1 We don't know that yet. Although we have received the
2 application for a right-of-way, we have not moved
3 forward with any processing at this point in time.

4 MR. BROCKMAN: Does the management plan
5 provide any guidance in this regard for these kinds of
6 applications?

7 MR. FOOTE: No, it doesn't. The piece
8 that remains to be resolved and is unclear at this
9 time is relative to the federal nexus. We know under
10 BLM policy that wind-energy developments are
11 prohibited in NLCS units. Clearly the wind-turbine
12 structures would all be located on private lands.
13 However, a right-of-way would be potentially necessary
14 to access that. Does that fall within the
15 prohibition? That still needs to be determined.

16 MR. MORGAN: Along that right-of-way
17 there would also be transmission lines, I believe.

18 MR. FOOTE: I don't know that.

19 MR. MORGAN: By looking at the plan I
20 obtained from the county, they have to go somewhere.
21 At least logically they've got them along the road.
22 Could I get a copy of that application from you.

23 MR. FOOTE: I will contact our lands
24 folks.

25 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Did you have a
2 comment?

3 MR. LYMAN: No. If there are comments,
4 this is for an NLP for the EIR. If there are
5 technical comments, please try to get them in after
6 the 17th. My staff is advising that the more written
7 comments that go in will be a larger impact than a
8 whole lot of people flooding the facility like we
9 experienced with the National Monument. We
10 intentionally took it out of this office and put it in
11 Riverside.

12 MR. MORGAN: My information is that
13 you're going to get a fairly large attendance of
14 people who do not like the project. So if you don't
15 repair Snow Creek Road, you can keep them away.

16 MR. LYMAN: Unfortunately I made the
17 call at about 9:00 this morning, but it is extremely
18 controversial. They experienced flood damage last
19 night and this morning.

20 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Just as a point of
21 reference, where is Finkle's Point (as spoken)
22 relative to --

23 MR. CRITES: Fingle's.

24 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Finger Point,
25 whatever. Relative to the proposed project?

1 MR. FOOTE: It's outside.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Is it visible from
3 the proposed project?

4 MR. FOOTE: Well, it's right there.

5 MR. MORGAN: Well, in a word, no.

6 MR. LYMAN: The one caution is that some
7 of the turbines that are proposed for this project
8 exceed 400 feet in height. To give you an idea right
9 now, the tallest one along the I-10 corridor is 337
10 feet from base to top, tip to propeller. These are
11 considerably larger.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: How tall is the
13 Casino Morongo?

14 MR. LYMAN: The Casino Morongo is
15 Twenty-three stories. It's about 13 stories --
16 13-foot stories, so you're looking at about 269 feet.

17 MR. MORGAN: These are twice as big.

18 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: We're looking at
19 something twice as tall.

20 MR. LYMAN: Another third, yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Will that be hidden
22 behind Windy Point so that the sheep won't be able to
23 see those turbines from there?

24 MR. MORGAN: Possibly.

25 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: If we have all the

1 concerns about hang-gliding and, you know, other small
2 things like that being obtrusive on the sheep, it
3 would seem logical that they be a little spooked by a
4 400-foot-tall wind turbine.

5 MR. MORGAN: If there are sheep in that
6 area, they would probably leave.

7 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Recovery doesn't
8 mean -- it means occupation of former habitat.
9 Anyway, I digress.

10 MR. MORGAN: Generally these turbines
11 would go along Snow Creek Road to the west side of the
12 Snow Creek Road then curl around on the surface road
13 up to the start of the ridge on Fingle's Finger then
14 go some below where this road would connect, and then
15 the rest would go all the way up to 4,000 feet on the
16 mountain through chaparral generally, and probably
17 risks of fire from vehicles and wind turbines and
18 construction or whatever are fairly high.

19 MR. LYMAN: Also just to answer your
20 question, the prevailing winds will give you a line of
21 sight, technically.

22 MR. MORGAN: Straight into Palm Springs.

23 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Public comments.
24 Seeing no members of the public in attendance, can we
25 conclude that there are none and move on?

1 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: So done. Do you have
3 any further updates?

4 MR. FOOTE: Yes. One other NOP
5 regarding a draft environmental impact report from the
6 County of Riverside. This is relative to the
7 Travertine Point Specific Plan, which spans the
8 Riverside County Imperial County border down to
9 immediately south -- or east of the National Monument
10 at that location.

11 In reviewing the notice dated
12 November 13th, 2007, it's clear that the EIR would
13 address and acknowledge issues dealing with Anza
14 Borrego Desert State Park, the Salton Sea as adjacent
15 entities. However, in no part of this document did
16 they mention the National Monument or the fact that
17 there's federal-designated wilderness immediately
18 adjacent.

19 And of course, another issue here is the
20 proposed Monument expansion into that various corner,
21 which I believe would abut this development directly.
22 I will, prior to the 30-day guideline here about
23 submitting comments, inform the county that
24 consideration should be given to both the National
25 Monument and the federal-designated wilderness as well

1 as the proposed expansion to ensure that they address
2 this in their EIR.

3 MR. MORGAN: And we, as a Sierra Club,
4 will be making similar comments plus additional
5 issues.

6 MR. LYMAN: As an aside here, it dawned
7 on me in the conversation with Mr. Foote this morning
8 that our geographic information system is amiss in
9 several items we've been mentioned.

10 MR. CRITES: Did you say "myth"?

11 MR. LYMAN: No. Amiss.

12 MR. CRITES: I'm sorry.

13 MR. LYMAN: I know you can't touch it
14 necessarily except in the cyber world, but we will
15 include the boundaries. I will have the boundaries of
16 the Monument included.

17 MR. MORGAN: And do you know the
18 proposed boundaries in the --

19 MR. LYMAN: I will have our GIS guys get
20 that information.

21 MR. MORGAN: I think the Coachella
22 Valley Mountains Conservancy GIS has the layers that
23 show the proposed and existing boundaries.

24 MR. LYMAN: I will see if we can put it
25 in.

1 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Are we ready for a
2 meeting review?

3 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Okay. Did you have
5 something else?

6 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, just one more. I
7 guess the NLCS support group that supports the
8 National Monument through the Wilderness Society, they
9 had a website about NLCS units that used to be
10 "Discover NLCS." That's been changed, and it's been
11 changed to "Conservationssystemalliance.org." So you
12 might change it on the BLM website.

13 MR. FOOTE: I was just going to say,
14 before we adjourn and review the meeting, I certainly
15 want to thank Diane Mann, who is our court reporter
16 today, for putting up with us and hopefully not having
17 too many difficulties today. Thank you, Diane.

18 And also thanks to Bob Lyman and his wife
19 for making the cookies and for providing all the
20 refreshments. Thank you, Bob.

21 MR. CRITES: Great cookies.

22 MR. LYMAN: My wife is a great cook.

23 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Future agenda items?
24 Any further comments?

25 MR. LADLEY: Did we want any updates?

1 MR. FOOTE: Yes, please. If you have
2 some to contribute from Forest Service, please do.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. LADLEY: Is this a good time?

5 MR. FOOTE: Yes, it is.

6 MR. BROCKMAN: This is the only time.

7 MR. CRITES: Unless you want to do them
8 by yourself.

9 MR. LADLEY: Just a couple of quick
10 updates. Cahuilla Tewanet, that project has started
11 for deck replacement. It's been moving forward for
12 about two weeks now. I think we are going to get a
13 nice quality product out of there. My impression is
14 the contractor is very good. They want to make sure
15 we're satisfied. So I'm real pleased, after five
16 years of hammering on that, to get some movement on it
17 so it's actually happening.

18 Lee was introduced earlier. He's been with
19 Monument for about two months now. He came from our
20 Forest Service staff. It's a loss for the Forest
21 Service in general but a gain for the Monument, and I
22 think that's going to be really important in taking
23 care of some of these things, the Santa Rosa area as
24 well as BLM land. Lee comes with a lot of experience
25 and skills, so we're real pleased about that.

1 R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, DIANE CARVER MANN, a certified shorthand
4 reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages
5 comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the
6 proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing
7 in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of the Meeting of
8 the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National
9 Monument Advisory Committee Meeting.

10 Dated this 21st day of December 2007, at
11 Chino, California.

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DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008

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