

SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: County of Riverside
Permit Assistance Center
Second Floor Conference Room
38686 El Cerrito Road
Palm Desert, CA 92211

DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 19, 2011
3:03 p.m. to 5:39 p.m.

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

JOB NO.: 70428DM

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT:

BOB BROCKMAN, CHAIRPERSON - City of Rancho Mirage
JEFF MORGAN, VICE CHAIR - Conservation organization
JEFF WATTENBARGER - Local builder organization
BOB LYMAN - County of Riverside
RON KRUEPER - Department of Parks and Recreation
AL MUTH - Regional college or university
RUTH WATLING - Pinyon Community Council
MARK WEBER - City of La Quinta

LAURIE ROSENTHAL - District Ranger, San Jacinto Ranger
District
JIM FOOTE - Monument Manager, Designated Federal
Official
JOHN KALISH - Field Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast
Field Office
JOHN LADLEY - Recreation Officer, San Jacinto Ranger
District

1 PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

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CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Okay. We're going to call the meeting to order. We have a quorum. We're going to just do introductions as opposed to roll call.

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MR. FOOTE: Yes. Jeff, why don't you start.

12

13

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MR. WATTENBARGER: Jeff Wattenbarger. I'm a local building contractor. Is that all you need?

15

16

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CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: That's good.

MR. LYMAN: Bob Lyman, County of

Riverside.

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19

MR. MORGAN: Jeff Morgan. I'm with the

Sierra Club.

20

21

MR. FOOTE: Jim Foote, designated

official, BLM.

22

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CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Bob Brockman,

City of Rancho Mirage.

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25

MS. ROSENTHAL: Laurie Rosenthal. Today

I'm representing the Forest Service for Jody and Tom

1 and myself as well. I'm a district ranger at the
2 San Jacinto District up in Idyllwild.

3 MR. KALISH: John Kalish field manager
4 with the BLM here in Palm Springs just representing
5 myself.

6 MS. WATLING: We can fix that.

7 MR. KRUEPER: Ron Krueper, California
8 State Parks.

9 MR. MUTH: Al Muth, regional college or
10 university.

11 MR. WATTENBARGER: Wow.

12 MS. WATLING: Ruth Watling, Pinyon
13 Community Council.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Quorum is
15 achieved.

16 MR. FOOTE: Yes, it is.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: So at this point
18 we would like to review the minutes from our
19 March 7th, 2011 meeting. We have them here, but they
20 were also --

21 MR. FOOTE: They were online.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: They were online,
23 so that's where most of us have looked at it. And do
24 I hear a motion to approve the minutes?

25 MR. MORGAN: I make a motion.

1 MS. WATLING: Second.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Moved, seconded.
3 All those in favor?

4 (Voice vote was taken.)

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Minutes are
6 approved.

7 Okay. Now on to the report section. We
8 have status of the next Charter and Bylaws and
9 composition of the MAC and nominations and vacancies.
10 Jim.

11 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Bob. In your
12 packets you'll find a little interesting historical
13 reference to the agenda from the very first MAC
14 meeting in 2002. And if you look at the second sheet,
15 which shows the cover page for the minutes, on the
16 inside I've highlighted in yellow those that are still
17 with us and were at that meeting in 2002.
18 Interestingly there's quite a number that are still
19 with us.

20 MR. WATTENBARGER: How far down the
21 stack?

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Not very far.

23 MR. FOOTE: Everything should be in
24 order. And I just thought it would be of interest for
25 folks to look at the very first agenda. You can see

1 that meetings were all day back at that point and
2 again who was with us at that time. That's just for
3 point of interest.

4 MR. MORGAN: Buford is no longer a part
5 of us.

6 MR. FOOTE: Officially he is.

7 MR. MORGAN: He is?

8 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

9 MR. KALISH: One little notation here is
10 that, if you look down, you'll see Jim Kenna's name as
11 the BLM field manager. Well, as of a week ago,
12 Jim Kenna is now the BLM state director here in
13 California. So he was here, and now he's a state
14 director.

15 MR. WATTENBARGER: Is that your fate?
16 You're moving up to the state next?

17 MR. KALISH: I don't think I have enough
18 years left, so the answer is no.

19 MR. MORGAN: You have to go many other
20 places.

21 MR. KALISH: That's right.

22 MR. FOOTE: Going through the packet,
23 the next sheet is just a brief reminder of what
24 constitutes a quorum with the Monument Advisory
25 Committee. As you recall from the original

1 legislation, a quorum required eight members to be
2 present, and that was changed in 2009 for the Omnibus
3 Public Act of 2009 to a majority of appointed, so
4 that's why today, where we have seven members with us,
5 we have a quorum. Under the old rules we would not
6 have had a quorum.

7 Moving on to the status of the Charter and
8 Bylaws, we're still good on that. The Charter was
9 approved and entered into the record in the very end
10 of 2010. So we have a little time to go. Probably
11 about another year I will have to resubmit the request
12 to recharter this group, along with the Bylaws, and
13 that will be forthcoming before too much longer. It
14 does take probably about a half of a year to get that
15 through the process, so I would anticipate by the
16 middle of next year I would start that process moving
17 forward.

18 The next sheet in your packet shows the
19 current composition of Monument Advisory Committee.
20 As you can see, there are ten positions, five primary
21 and five alternate, that will expire this year at the
22 end of this year. We have sent out the call for
23 nominations. In your packet also is the Federal
24 Register notice calling for those nominations. The
25 deadline for submitting applications expires on

1 September 29th, so that's only in a couple of weeks.
2 And it's, again, for those positions: Rancho Mirage,
3 Palm Desert, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians,
4 representative of the Pinyon Community Council and the
5 regional college or university with expertise in
6 natural science and research.

7 Al has indicated this is his last meeting.
8 So we've certainly appreciated his service all these
9 years. And you recall from the sheet back in 2002, Al
10 was here on the very first meeting and has been here
11 all along.

12 MR. MUTH: It's been memorable, Jim.

13 MR. FOOTE: That's nicely put. It's
14 been memorable.

15 MR. WATTENBARGER: A question, Jim. So
16 are each one of the principals and primaries notified
17 personally, or do they have to read this Federal
18 whatever?

19 MR. FOOTE: In the e-mails I sent out,
20 which include all the members, including all the
21 appointeds, I've identified on a couple of occasions
22 now that need to submit applications that desire to
23 continue in the position or help recruit other
24 individuals that may be interested to fill those
25 positions.

1 MR. MORGAN: I have a question. When I
2 expire, or whatever it is, in 2013 and we don't have
3 an alternate for the organization, at what point can
4 we ask someone to apply for that alternate position?

5 MR. FOOTE: Only when we go up for call
6 of nomination. Interestingly this year there was a
7 real push for alternates to be three years in length
8 as opposed to an abbreviated term, which in the past
9 every time we had put out a call for nominations, we'd
10 identify every vacant position. And I think over the
11 years we've never had anybody apply from the
12 conservation community for the alternate.

13 So this year in keeping with the
14 three-year-term idea, we're only going to advertise
15 for those ten positions, the primary alternates that
16 expire or that have an upcoming expiration. The next
17 group, as you see, will be those expiring July 21st,
18 2012. I would anticipate sometime later this fall
19 that we'll get that nomination process moving calling
20 for nominations in the publication of the Federal
21 Register. And so it won't be a while until we
22 actually get down to the third rotation.

23 But really that is not only driven by the
24 need and desire at the departmental level. It's for
25 three-year appointments as opposed to abbreviated

1 ones. It's really a reflection of the response we've
2 had to calling for nominations for everyone. We just
3 have not had much success in getting many folks to
4 apply for some of the positions that are out for
5 rotation.

6 In fact one of the interesting
7 circumstances a while back, when it took 14 months
8 from the call for nominations going out for the
9 appointment, that a couple of those positions we had
10 originally called for had expired before appointments
11 were ever made. So that's the kind of thing we want
12 to certainly clear away from, and I don't think it's
13 fair to members to be appointed for something that's
14 of very short duration, like a year, given our meeting
15 schedule, when we've had one or two meetings a year.

16 MR. WATTENBARGER: A question. Excuse
17 my ignorance. You say there's ten. Is that by the
18 whatever formed the Monument, there's ten permanent
19 positions or ten permanent representatives?

20 MR. FOOTE: No. There's 15 primary
21 representatives.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: Okay. That's what
23 I'm seeing on this sheet here.

24 MR. FOOTE: Correct. Then in 2009 the
25 Charter was amended to give us the ability to appoint

1 alternates, and so that one sheet that you is a see on
2 the attendance record, you'll note there's a gray band
3 through there when you get down between March and
4 September of 2009. And you'll see a row that says
5 P.A., P.A., P.A. marking positions. The September,
6 2009 meeting was the first time that alternates could
7 officially represent that interest.

8 MR. WATTENBARGER: So the seven that you
9 noted of the people that are here as primaries, we
10 have to have seven of those for a quorum?

11 MR. FOOTE: For a quorum. Where it says
12 majority of the appointed, we look at the majority of
13 the appointed interests represented. If there's 15
14 interests represented, right now we have 11 of those
15 interests represented by either a primary or
16 alternate, and so a majority of the 11 requires six
17 members to be present.

18 MR. WATTENBARGER: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. FOOTE: Okay. And I think I did
20 cover the call for nominations, upcoming vacancies.
21 Again September 29 is the deadline that those must be
22 submitted by. One of the sheets in your packet is
23 something you've seen before, and it shows the process
24 for Charter renewal and member nominations. If you
25 look at the expiration date then go back from that, it

1 takes about 240 days in advance to get the call for
2 nominations. Going on, on the reverse side it's a
3 flowchart that shows you how these application
4 packages go through the agency and the department.
5 You've also seen that one before as well.

6 Okay. I think that takes care of the
7 status of the MAC Charter and Bylaws, the MAC
8 composition, call for nominations. Are there any
9 questions?

10 MR. WEBER: I apologize for being tardy.
11 Mark Weber, City of La Quinta.

12 MR. FOOTE: Hi, Mark. Welcome.

13 MR. WEBER: I was multitasking today,
14 and I didn't want to come straight off of a golf
15 course stinking for you guys, so I tried to go home
16 and take a shower real quick. So that's my story, and
17 I'm sticking to it.

18 MS. WATLING: Jim, question. What is
19 simultaneous surnaming?

20 MR. FOOTE: That's on one of your
21 sheets.

22 MR. MUTH: Sounds like there ought to be
23 a law against it.

24 MS. WATLING: It's the one with the
25 arrows.

1 MR. FOOTE: Usually surnaming involves
2 whose desk does it hit and who has to sign on that
3 before it goes forward, and I would say that
4 simultaneous surnaming means it's going to more than
5 one desk at one time so the package can move through
6 multiple people that have to see it at the same time.

7 MS. WATLING: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Federalese.

9 MS. WATLING: Thank you.

10 MR. FOOTE: I've never seen it happen,
11 but I assume it is happens.

12 MR. KRUEPER: Dual tracking.

13 MR. MUTH: So it's a noun. Now it's
14 become a verb or adverb?

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Okay. Let's move
16 to the report on our work from last meeting on the
17 project tasks, priorities and maybe some budget
18 information. Jim?

19 MR. FOOTE: Before I turn the floor over
20 to Laurie to give you some background information
21 regarding budgets and capability and accomplished
22 tasks on the Forest side, let me just review that this
23 has an exercise that the Monument Advisory Committee
24 undertook at the March 7th, 2011 meeting, and that was
25 subsequent to three meetings of the work group, and

1 that was to identify and prioritize projects that the
2 MAC thought was important for the agencies to consider
3 in the work filing process.

4 I did send this out shortly after the
5 March 7th meeting, not with the status updates but in
6 terms of how the Monument Advisory Committee had
7 weighed in on this, how their votes had been counted.
8 Those you see in the column next to the last one here,
9 the top number being how many votes has the MAC
10 recorded, and in red was the relative priority that
11 the work group had assigned to that particular task.

12 So before we launch into just a brief
13 overview of where we stand on each of these, I want to
14 turn the floor again over to Laurie, let her kind of
15 set the stage here on the Forest Service side about
16 what's going on in the San Bernardino National Forest.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: Well, you all probably
18 would love some good news. You know, you turn on the
19 radio and TV and your computer, and everything is so
20 dark. Unfortunately I don't have a whole lot of good
21 news. What happened in 2003 -- remember the major
22 fires that we had across Southern California? As a
23 result of that, we got some incredible earmarks, and
24 Senator Feinstein, Mary Bono Mack, was part of this,
25 and we were getting up to 30 million dollars for about

1 four or five years.

2 And you know, in Southern California, we're
3 not talking about commercial thinning. What we're
4 talking about is community protection. So we weren't
5 set up with mills or anything like that. And so the
6 implementation of doing the fuel reduction was a
7 little bit more expensive than that, even though we
8 did have a grinding site and all sorts of things like
9 that. It wasn't -- you know, up north, for example,
10 you don't usually have that kind of a budget to do
11 that sort of thing because it's a profit-making thing
12 with the mills.

13 Anyway, that being said, we were -- these
14 earmarks -- I know that's a dirty word nowadays --
15 were actually a wonderful thing for our communities,
16 and that included Pinyon as well. They benefited from
17 this. And the other thing is, we didn't have a stick
18 cut up in Idyllwild for over ten years prior to that.
19 It wasn't -- you couldn't even see the houses through
20 the trees, literally. And then all of a sudden all
21 the trees started dying, and everybody said, "Oh,
22 well, I don't think maybe this is the best thing."
23 And so there were all kinds of partnerships developed
24 between all our organizations, including our nonprofit
25 Fire Safe Councils and CAL FIRE, and we were all

1 working towards this, and it was actually declared a
2 disaster.

3 And so anyway, long story short, we had to
4 staff up to do what we needed to do. We did some
5 incredible things, and mostly we hired temporaries and
6 term employees. Term is an employee that leaves after
7 four years. However we had to hire some more
8 permanent people as well.

9 Okay. Let's fast forward now to about two
10 years ago. Earmarks are no longer happening. They
11 abruptly stop. Now we have this big organization, and
12 we still had some money that we could carry over to
13 finish some of these important projects, but right now
14 we're in a situation where we are so -- our budget --
15 we're going to be in such deficit that even,
16 unfortunately having to get rid of all of our
17 temporary and term employees, we're still in this
18 incredible deficit. And I don't have all the numbers
19 with me. Jody and Tom have all those numbers. And
20 unfortunately they had some emergencies come up today.

21 But it's a big gap. It means even if we
22 don't do any discretionary funding, we are still in --
23 now, this deficit does not affect the fire. I want to
24 be very clear about that. They have their own sort of
25 budget. So we're not letting go of any firefighters.

1 But everybody else, this has just been a gut-wrenching
2 process, and it's a very formal process, and we're
3 just learning.

4 We're involved with human resources right
5 now, and we went through meeting after meeting after
6 meeting of our leadership team to see what are our
7 basic needs right now? And then we created this new
8 organization. For some people it's the same, where
9 the old positions are the same as the new positions.
10 There are a lot where that's not the case. And so
11 we're talking about maybe letting go of 20 to 30
12 percent of our permanent. And don't quote me on that
13 figure. I'm not positive about that percentage
14 because I don't have the numbers with me.

15 But it means, even with letting go of all
16 of the terms and temps, we're still going to have to
17 let go of some permanent employees. Now, that doesn't
18 actually mean they're going to lose their jobs.
19 What's going to happen is that there's this process
20 where H.R. is working on now where you fill in with a
21 new organization how you move people over, and then
22 are there people that can just slip into the new
23 organization if they have the qualifications,
24 et cetera. Then there are going to be people that
25 still are going to have to be placed on another

1 forest, and so they're going to be applying, and
2 they're going to have priority for those positions.

3 The good news, if there is any silver
4 lining, is there's going to be other forests that have
5 had a lot of earmarks that are up north right now
6 that -- those will be drying up in a year or so. So
7 we're the first out of the chute, and that's good
8 because there's a lot less competition, then, for
9 other employees from other forests that are going to
10 be in this similar situation. So the bottom line is
11 we are in a budget -- I guess you could call it --
12 crisis right now and a tremendous transition that's
13 happening.

14 And so as we look at the projects, we still
15 are going to get work done and very important work.
16 And we are still going to be looking at the priorities
17 that the MAC has set for us. But I wanted to give you
18 that background that this is a big thing. I say in a
19 couple of years we'll probably be a small organization
20 and be able to figure out what we can and can't do.
21 But right now because of this transition things are a
22 little squirrely.

23 Anybody have any questions?

24 MR. WATTENBARGER: A couple quick. Now,
25 up there there's a couple of agencies, yours and BLM,

1 or somebody else? So you're talking about everybody
2 got slashed, their budgets?

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: This is just the
4 San Bernardino National Forest. Yes, there is also a
5 budget decrease across the board for the next two
6 years, at least that we know of; right? Two years,
7 would you say? And that's going to be ten to 15
8 percent for the Forest Service. This is additional
9 because we're different than most of the other
10 national forests, because we geared up an additional
11 up to 30 million dollars a year. So there's going to
12 be budget reductions across the board, BLM and Forest
13 Service, but we're -- the San Bernardino National
14 Forest is even in a more special situation. Does that
15 make sense?

16 MR. WATTENBARGER: Just one more
17 question. Did this money help with the beetle --

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes, exactly. That was
19 what it was all for, so the communities are a lot
20 safer as a result. Any other questions?

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Yes. Laurie, did
22 you give us this information as a preparation for
23 implementation of some of these priorities?

24 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Some of them are

1 going to be affected, I take it?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes. Not only that, but
3 I would have told you even if we weren't looking at
4 projects about this. But that is setting the stage
5 for when we do look at the projects as well.

6 MR. MORGAN: I have a question. How
7 will it affect the Forest Service interfacing with the
8 public? Are they going to close the office on
9 weekends?

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Not on weekends. We
11 already -- our district office is closed two days a
12 week right now. Recreation and visitor services are
13 going to be in transition right now; there's no doubt
14 about it. And how it ends up, I don't know. We are
15 taking a few of our sites -- not in the Monument, but
16 we are taking a few of our sites off the reservation
17 system because, since we don't know where things
18 exactly are going, we wouldn't want to have people
19 that have reserved campsites and tell them that
20 they've been cancelled, so we're taking them off the
21 reservation system.

22 MR. MORGAN: You're going to totally
23 close some campgrounds.

24 MS. ROSENTHAL: Boulder Basin and the
25 group campground up there, and those are because our

1 recreation staff is so stretched, and when something
2 is really far away, like Boulder Basin, we just can't
3 get to it.

4 MR. MORGAN: How about the ones around
5 Fern Basin?

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: We are going to be
7 looking at that very closely over the next month, so
8 we'll have more information coming.

9 MR. MORGAN: Even though they're not in
10 the Monument, they get used because they walk from the
11 campground straight in.

12 MR. WATTENBARGER: One last observation.
13 As a mountain hiker, thank you for maintaining those
14 trails that we love so much up there.

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: And you know, that's
16 another thing. Volunteerism is not free. And we have
17 a very active volunteer group down here in the desert
18 and up there in the high country working on the trails
19 and also acting as ambassadors representing the Forest
20 and the BLM, but you have to have people to organize
21 volunteers. And so again hopefully the goal is that
22 we maintain our strong volunteer program. But there
23 will be a transition period with that as well.

24 MR. WEBER: Laurie, I'm the committee
25 chairperson for the Boy Scouts Troop 377, and they

1 want to volunteer and do some work with you guys as
2 well. I made contacts with one of the rangers up at
3 the station there. That's the process to go through
4 to make sure that they get involved?

5 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes, absolutely.

6 MR. WEBER: And so the services
7 associated with helping them to do some trail
8 maintenance projects and signage, whatever you guys
9 need, the funding is secure for that. That's coming
10 with the rangers that are onsite; is that right?

11 MS. ROSENTHAL: Why don't we talk
12 afterwards specifically. I need a little bit more
13 information about that.

14 MR. WEBER: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Any other
16 questions for Laurie?

17 MR. FOOTE: Okay. I think with that
18 we'll just move on to the worksheet and just give a
19 brief update on each of the projects on where we
20 stand, what our status is.

21 On the sheet you have in front of you, I
22 have updated it from the version you received back in
23 March to show where we are on status. And let me just
24 go through these quickly. And I did provide some
25 additional information in your packets that target

1 some of these projects.

2 The continuing removal of exotic species in
3 the National Monument on the BLM lands is always a
4 project we continue with on an annual basis. We will
5 again continue with that this year. I'm not aware of
6 any specific locations we've identified yet. We
7 typically get into the year to do that in conjunction
8 with our staff, and so that will be continuing as it
9 always does. And as with everything, the scope of
10 eradication efforts really is dependent on how much
11 funding you have to contribute to that. But this is
12 always a very positive project in terms of
13 partnerships and volunteers.

14 We do work together with California
15 Department of Fish and Game, with volunteers of
16 Friends of the Desert Mountains to have some other
17 folks working on the eradication project. So we've
18 been very successful in the past, and I predict that
19 we will be successful in the future, despite any
20 funding requirements or funding reductions that may
21 occur.

22 On the recreation resources side,
23 Pacific Crest Trail issues at Snow Creek, you can see
24 we've marked that one completed. In your packet the
25 next two pages show modification of Desert Water

1 Agency signs at the gate on PCT both before
2 modification and after. As you recall from previous
3 meetings, one of the major issues there was confusion
4 to hikers as they encountered that gate.

5 As you can see, before modification the
6 signs were very clear that trespassing was prohibited.
7 And that led to tremendous confusion by the hikers of
8 where the trail went, when in fact the trail followed
9 the road. We worked with the Desert Water Agency to
10 modify those signs, and the one that's really, then,
11 most helpful is the vertical one, where it very
12 clearly says "Hiking along this paved road is
13 permitted for access to the Pacific Crest Trail," so
14 we've really, I think, remedied that problem there at
15 Snow Creek in terms of confusion in regards to the
16 trail location.

17 Flip over to the next item, safety
18 enhancements. This is construction of
19 Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot. This is
20 really labeled as a safety enhancement because we find
21 on more and more occasions, particularly during
22 Thursday and Saturday morning hike programs at the
23 Monument Visitor Center, the parking lot is full, the
24 access road into the parking lot is lined with cars,
25 and people are parking across the highway and having

1 to walk across the highway to get access to the
2 Visitor Center, which is not a desirable condition.

3 That's a high-speed road. We really don't
4 want folks walking across Highway 74 to access the
5 National Monument Visitor Center. Therefore we have
6 proposed development of a new parking lot. We have
7 completed a NEPA for that, National Environmental
8 Policy Act documentation. We have completed
9 developing all the specifications and engineering for
10 the project. Those who are interested after the
11 meeting can look at the design of that project right
12 here. These are the engineering drawings.

13 What we're waiting for now is, of course,
14 the hundred thousand dollar question, or in this case
15 the \$200,000 question, of funding. We have submitted
16 this through the BLM's budget system. We've
17 highlighted this as a high need. I think this one in
18 particular we'll wait to see what happens with the
19 budget as we go forward and our ability to develop
20 partnerships to help fund this project. Both those
21 internal budgets, external budgets are all unknown at
22 this point. We'll have to wait for the dust to settle
23 somewhat before we really have a clear idea how to
24 proceed.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: How many

1 additional parking spaces would you think would be
2 provided?

3 MR. FOOTE: We've identified 25. Well,
4 the design, if you want to look at it after, I think
5 the 25 will be adequate. We are somewhat limited by
6 the amount of space out there. As you know, we are
7 constrained with the presence of the Bighorn Institute
8 property right up close to the Visitor Center. We do
9 have City of Palm Desert lands immediately south of
10 the Visitor Center, so the available BLM public lands
11 are somewhat small and restricted. But we're hoping
12 25 parking spaces based on what we've seen up there,
13 at least right now should help that, should work out.

14 MR. WATTENBARGER: Do you have to get
15 approval from the City of Palm Desert to do this, or
16 is this facility in the city you're working with?

17 MR. FOOTE: The facility -- interesting
18 you raised that issue, Jeff. The city line is very
19 close to this. The location of this project is
20 actually outside the city limits. However what comes
21 into play is an agreement that, when the Visitor
22 Center was first developed, there was an agreement
23 between the City, who was then the private landowner
24 of that parcel, and the BLM. There's some language in
25 there -- let's say that's a little bit confusing --

1 that has applicability to many future actions.

2 I have approached the City to get a
3 recorded note or whatever is required to kind of make
4 sure that we are all on the same page and be able to
5 move forward on improvements on land that was
6 ultimately donated by the City for the National
7 Monument Visitor Center. That process is moving kind
8 of slowly, and I haven't had a reaction from the City
9 in a couple of months, so I'll be pursuing that again.

10 In the event that funding does become
11 available, we don't want to have any hangups that
12 would keep us from immediately going with the
13 contract, because we are ready to do that. If the
14 money were to become available tomorrow, our design
15 specifications and engineering drawings are at the
16 place we can immediately begin.

17 MR. WATTENBARGER: And the State has
18 approved, or the agency that approved your plans has
19 been approved or is there to be approved?

20 MR. FOOTE: Yes. We worked this through
21 our district office engineering staff, and in fact we
22 did get three preliminary bids, and that's why we know
23 roughly it will be in the \$200,000 range. But yes, we
24 have gone through proper channels on our agency side
25 for the project.

1 MR. WATTENBARGER: Thank you.

2 MR. MORGAN: Do you have to do some kind
3 of environment assessment if that's made available for
4 the public?

5 MR. FOOTE: We did this a couple of
6 years ago, it was.

7 MR. MORGAN: I don't recall seeing it.

8 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Any other questions
9 on that project?

10 MR. MUTH: Did the City comment on the
11 NEPA documentation?

12 MR. FOOTE: No, they didn't. The City's
13 main concern is with this 15-year-old agreement that
14 predated when the BLM acquired the property and where
15 it should be located and some of the conditions that
16 were still in effect, and I've been working with the
17 City on that.

18 Okay. Moving on, the next one in terms of
19 replacing the Monument sign on Highway 111, again, a
20 completed project. In your package you'll see a photo
21 on one page of before and after. The interesting
22 thing is, I think when they put the sign up, they must
23 have walked away with it vertical and then the wind
24 came up, because it's in a little bit of a permanent
25 leaning position right now. We've gone back to

1 Caltrans to say, "Well, is there any opportunity for
2 you to correct this to actually put it upright?" And
3 we haven't had a response yet at this point, but we're
4 aware that the sign is leaning at an interesting
5 angle.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: Kind of mirrors those
7 trees out there on I-10.

8 MR. FOOTE: You're right, it does. As
9 you're approaching the sign, you don't notice it.
10 It's only when you're across from it, you see the
11 dramatic lean.

12 MR. WEBER: Those are obviously not
13 breakaway poles.

14 MR. FOOTE: They are.

15 MR. WEBER: Those are? Those are
16 breakaway poles?

17 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

18 MR. WEBER: Really?

19 MR. MUTH: Except they're going fast.

20 MR. WEBER: Maybe I do see they've got
21 some drills -- they've drilled down below. Hopefully
22 they can stake it out a little bit, because you can
23 see the concrete footings, I think, or maybe that's
24 rock. I don't know. Hopefully they can do something,
25 because otherwise you're going to have the same

1 problem; it's going to be lying down again.

2 MR. FOOTE: I don't think they concreted
3 it in.

4 MR. MORGAN: They just use a thumper
5 thing to drive them into the ground, a thing on the
6 back of the truck.

7 MR. WATTENBARGER: Mark, if it's
8 permissible, I'll get a couple of two-by-fours and
9 your Boy Scouts could put them in there.

10 MR. WEBER: We could do that.

11 MR. FOOTE: If these are the same kind
12 of poles holding up the original sign, they're hollow.
13 Are holes drilled through them to allow the breakaway
14 to occur?

15 MR. WEBER: Six inches up and about a
16 foot and a half up, it's drilled away. That signage
17 doesn't really cost \$5,000, does it? I mean, to put
18 something like that up, does it really cost that much?

19 MR. FOOTE: The beauty of this project
20 is Caltrans did all this for free. We didn't spend a
21 dime on this.

22 MR. WEBER: Oh, great.

23 MR. FOOTE: In fact this sign was one
24 that was originally on Highway 74 and has been
25 residing up at the San Jacinto Ranger District all

1 these years after we replaced it. Caltrans went up,
2 retrieved the sign, brought it down here. They
3 provided the posts. They installed it. They did all
4 the work at no cost to us.

5 MR. WEBER: That's great.

6 MR. FOOTE: I'm very appreciative to
7 Caltrans for their effort in doing that. That was
8 unexpected, but they did it.

9 Continuing down here, next was construction
10 of amphitheater at the Monument Visitor Center. I've
11 provided in your packet a sketch of what that would
12 look like. This comes out of the Friends of the
13 Desert Mountains Dirt catalog, which is a catalog that
14 Friends issues in trying to secure donations. And
15 we're looking for donations, of course, to construct
16 the amphitheater.

17 The picture you see is an actual picture of
18 the location at the Visitor Center, and then this
19 design was just Photo-Shopped on top of that, but this
20 is the actual location. It would be at the Visitor
21 Center, of what it would look like after completion.
22 The only thing new in here, other than the structure,
23 are the four trees. They would be planted. Those
24 don't currently exist, but the rest of the landscaping
25 at the site is just as you see it. It exists.

1 MR. WATTENBARGER: So "Dirt" is an
2 acronym for something?

3 MR. FOOTE: Just "Dirt," actually, not
4 an acronym. Friends of the Desert Mountains is very
5 much engaged in land acquisition, so this was sort of
6 a takeout of this, of buy some dirt. And they also do
7 have as one of their missions to support the National
8 Monument.

9 MR. MUTH: Excuse me. Jim, is this a
10 daytime-only facility? I don't see any night lighting
11 or anything in the depiction.

12 MR. FOOTE: We would anticipate it would
13 be for nighttime as well. We just don't have the
14 lights portrayed here. But we would want this to be
15 available for evening programs as well as daytime
16 programs.

17 MS. WATLING: That's an effective
18 presentation.

19 MR. FOOTE: Any other questions on the
20 amphitheater?

21 Next one, inventory of lands for wild lands
22 status. As you recall at the last meeting there's
23 been an indication of doing this or was a high
24 priority by the work group. That was pursuant to a
25 secretarial order issued last December. And since

1 that time there's been a realignment in that process
2 that the BLM previously was going to be designating
3 wild lands as the land designation, and that will no
4 longer be occurring. However we will, of course,
5 continue to follow our FLPMA requirements for updating
6 our inventory of lands that have these
7 characteristics. That will continue under the current
8 law.

9 Questions on that one?

10 MR. MORGAN: Have you started yet?

11 MR. FOOTE: Yes, we have addressed that
12 in the South Coast RMP revision, which is just coming
13 out now, so that is up to date and follows our
14 secretarial order.

15 Wildlife resources -- in fact, let me step
16 back before I run into this. There will be a pointed
17 comment on that later in the agenda, and you'll see
18 where that comes in.

19 Wildlife habitat inventories and
20 monitoring. As you can see on your status, you see
21 "Awaiting action pending completion of Reserve
22 Management Unit Plan under CVMSHCP." Currently in
23 process is development of a Reserve Management Unit
24 Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains
25 under the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat

1 Conservation Plan.

2 The desire on many of these actions, when
3 we look at the Monument, of course, is approach them
4 on a landscape basis, particularly anything that deals
5 with wildlife species, with habitats, those kinds of
6 things, because the habitats, the wildlife don't
7 respect boundaries. Therefore it only makes sense to
8 look at this across the board in terms of
9 jurisdictions, which we are coordinating with
10 Fish and Game for various cities along the interface.
11 Where it extends in the Forest Service, of course, we
12 do that but to make sure we're all approaching
13 management in the same manner. It's the only way it
14 makes sense.

15 The way we're looking to do that is through
16 these Reserve Management Unit Plans. Those are in
17 development. Hopefully one for the
18 Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains will be completed by
19 the end of this year. That's the target date. And
20 then when we get into our next meeting, hopefully
21 we'll have a little more update on where that process
22 is and how we're going to move forward in conjunction
23 with our partners in implementing that plan.

24 MR. MORGAN: I have a question regarding
25 your monitoring Windy Point at Snow Creek. Still

1 fairly regular consistent off-road vehicle use in the
2 area pretty much daily.

3 MR. FOOTE: Which is the next item on
4 the table, next page.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: I had a question on
7 the reserve plan. Does that encompass the whole
8 Monument? All the stakeholders are somehow involved
9 in preparing this?

10 MR. FOOTE: The focus for that is
11 primarily on central habitat for peninsular bighorn
12 sheep. The multiple species plan was structured
13 around --

14 MR. WATTENBARGER: I understand that,
15 but I thought you talked about a "reserve" something,
16 kind of a new word to me, the reserve something unit
17 plan.

18 MR. FOOTE: Correct. And that's tied to
19 conservation areas that are established under the
20 Multiple Species Plan. So for instance the Santa Rosa
21 and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area does not
22 extend to Mt. San Jacinto because the focus being on
23 the bighorn sheep, the sheep do not extend up that
24 far. So that's really the focus. Most of the RMUP,
25 which is the acronym for that, is, from the federal

1 side, on BLM lands. There's small pieces of Forest
2 Service land that are engaged, but it doesn't really
3 hit the high country because that is not largely
4 central habitat for bighorn sheep. So this is kind of
5 what's driving this. And we'll see how this develops.

6 Right now the CVCC, which is the Coachella
7 Valley Conservation Commission, who is responsible for
8 implementing Multiple Species Plan, has contracted
9 with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy to
10 prepare the plans. So we're very much engaged with
11 the Mountains Conservancy in moving this process
12 forward.

13 Questions?

14 MR. KALISH: Yeah. At this point plans
15 are also being developed for the other reserves within
16 the MSHCP area. For example we're engaged in the
17 development of a very similar plan for the
18 Dos Palmas Preserve located right down in the
19 North Shore area in and around the Dos Palmas Preserve
20 that we manage. A similar effort is being undertaken
21 for the valley floor that would incorporate all of the
22 Coachella Valley Preserve. So these plans are being
23 developed for all of the reserve areas under the MSHCP
24 as well as up at the Monument.

25 MR. FOOTE: Thanks, John. If there are

1 no further questions on that item, we'll flip the
2 page. And this is going to the issue that Jeff just
3 raised about the field inspections going on at
4 Windy Point/Snow Creek area in terms of compliance
5 with off-road vehicle closures and restrictions, and
6 that is ongoing. Those that have been up to the
7 Snow Creek area will have seen a new fence along most
8 of the length of Snow Creek Road that was installed
9 particularly to preclude off-highway vehicle use in
10 that area.

11 We have installed some new signs under
12 Highway 111 leading into the sand dune area. We are
13 continuing patrols, but we're also looking at
14 different ways to try to deal with that issue of
15 vehicles going in. It's a very difficult one. We
16 still put rangers out there, but it's hard to have
17 that kind of capacity where they're out there real
18 frequently.

19 Fencing is always an issue in terms of
20 maintaining that fence, particularly in that area
21 where it's a fence in a wash, and fences in washes
22 when you have big rain events don't last very long.
23 And so that's another issue we're having to look at
24 and deal with.

25 But we are looking at other ways to try to

1 deal better with that. I think we're doing a pretty
2 good job now. The use has declined. It still
3 continues, but if we go back a number of years and
4 look at the level of use that was occurring out there,
5 it's substantially declined. We've issued literally
6 hundreds of citations to violators with off-highway
7 vehicles in that area and will continue to do so. So
8 I think we're doing a good job with the capabilities
9 we have now, but we're exploring ways to better
10 contain that use.

11 MR. MORGAN: What we need to do with
12 these citations is to fine them a thousand dollars or
13 30 or \$50, which they get right now. The federal
14 judge routinely gives 30 and \$50 penalties.

15 MR. FOOTE: The Court has that
16 jurisdiction to do that. We can't tell the Court what
17 to do and not to do.

18 MR. KALISH: The bail schedule is
19 established by the chief magistrate on the federal
20 level, and there's been many attempts to try to raise
21 that fine amount or bail amount unsuccessfully.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: Is there some kind of
23 an informational program, if there's an off-road
24 association or something here locally to try to get
25 the word out not to go there?

1 MR. WEBER: Isn't there somebody with
2 the City of Palm Desert who is involved with the
3 County OHV Advisory Committee? There is something
4 like that.

5 MR. MORGAN: The County committee is run
6 for and on behalf of ORV users to try to get them up
7 to the places to go the places where they want to go.
8 So it's not an agency that would do anything to
9 improve the situation. All they'll do is try to make
10 it more friendly to the OHV riders.

11 MR. WEBER: Maybe it's an avenue at
12 least to get information out. The person that I met
13 through some kind of work relations was over in the
14 planning department in Palm Desert, City of
15 Palm Desert. I met him about eight months ago or
16 something, and I don't know. Maybe that's an avenue
17 at least to get information out again to make the
18 attempt. All we can do is try, fine them and continue
19 the efforts.

20 MR. FOOTE: If I recall, the OHV task
21 force was really pushing heavily in that direction.
22 And as you're coming into the valley from the west,
23 there's the big billboard saying there is no OHV
24 riding here, so there have been a number of attempts
25 to keep moving that forward. The difficulty we

1 usually have are with the riders that are not
2 associated with associations. Typically those that
3 are tied to California Off-Highway Vehicle Association
4 or others are very aware of the need to follow the
5 rules to make sure that their opportunities are not
6 lost. And we have very good compliance from those.

7 It's the individuals who are not associated
8 with those kind of groups that are really hard to
9 reach, which they choose not to become part of those
10 groups, and therefore they're not getting the message.
11 So we have to hit them one by one when we can. And we
12 do put out information, and of course the enforcement
13 program is pretty strong.

14 The signing, it's amazing some of the
15 incidents we've seen, where you'll have a sign that
16 says you can't go here, and people will be parked
17 right next to it. And there are kids going in, and
18 there will be excuses like, "They're only in there for
19 a few minutes," or, "It's just my kids," any number of
20 things that kind of make you wonder, well, what part
21 of "You can't go here" is not understood, because the
22 sign is very clear.

23 And we continually run into that. So even
24 though you can communicate an effective message, it's
25 the comprehension of it that seems to be lacking. And

1 people are going to interpret a lot of messaging to
2 suit their own needs on a regular basis.

3 MR. WEBER: Right. So all you can do is
4 keep trying. With some of the billboards and signage
5 in that area, since I know Lamar is having a lot of
6 times filling a lot of billboards now, because I was
7 doing a lot of public service billboards. And
8 basically cost of billboards, it may be there's
9 funding somewhere to do that. A couple or \$400 would
10 probably purchase billboard paper that Lamar could
11 probably encourage to post on there on some of their
12 available space.

13 So I don't know if that's an opportunity.
14 But all you can do is continue to advocate and educate
15 and inform and fine and try to hold people's hands.

16 MR. FOOTE: And partnerships are going
17 to play a role with this too. With the development of
18 the Reserve Management Unit Plans, there is one for
19 the valley floor units as well as the
20 Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains. And those are
21 targeted largely at land acquisition within the
22 conservation areas and, again, through these
23 management plans looking at how to address the
24 significant issues, and off-highway vehicle trespass
25 is a significant issue that as a partnership we need

1 to look at collectively, particularly areas such as
2 this where there's a fragmented land-ownership
3 pattern.

4 BLM doesn't control all the land. There is
5 private land out there, and how you bring all these
6 entities together to really accomplish a common goal?
7 And I think in large part the Multiple Species Plan is
8 a good way to do that, and Reserve Management Unit
9 Plans, which legally get down to targeting specific
10 actions that implement the larger plan, if you will,
11 are a way to do that.

12 But what are our needs? If we need
13 additional fencing, how do we do patrols? How do we
14 work in partnership with law enforcement? Any number
15 of these actions are coming out of these plans, and
16 then it's really incumbent upon us to look at how to
17 implement those plans. No question funding is going
18 to be an issue. It always will be with a declining
19 budget that's going to put us in a little harder
20 position, and we're not alone in that.

21 I think city by city, county, of course,
22 everyone is experiencing decreased budgets. We're all
23 equally hard pressed. And I think that's where our
24 challenge is going to be, to implement these plans
25 with decreased budgets. How do we do that in the face

1 of increasing pressures?

2 MR. KALISH: One of the action items in
3 these plans is for BLM and the Conservation Commission
4 to enter into a law enforcement agreement that allows
5 BLM rangers under their federal jurisdiction to
6 enforce laws and regulations on non-federal lands that
7 are within the reserve system. And we're very close
8 to signing that agreement. Once that agreement is
9 signed between the two entities, then our hope is to
10 expand it out to the State Park as well as Fish and
11 Wildlife Service and State Fish and Game.

12 And that will go a long way to sort of
13 really expand our overall enforcement capability. It
14 really cleans up the jurisdiction issues that rangers
15 have to deal with as they enforce these laws and
16 regulations.

17 MR. KRUEPER: Would they be able to
18 enforce county codes, then or state, Penal Code,
19 state?

20 MR. KALISH: Yes, they would under the
21 832 PC, the arrangement the BLM has with the county
22 sheriff. So what these arrangements allow is for the
23 BLM ranger, then, to be able to enforce state law
24 regulation and local ordinances on non-federal lands
25 that are within the reserve and have an access to

1 federal land as part of the reserve system.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Al.

3 MR. MUTH: Once those agreements are
4 signed, can the offender be remanded to a court that
5 would take this seriously and do more than fine them
6 30, 50 bucks?

7 MR. KALISH: State court typically with
8 the district attorney's office and their environmental
9 crimes unit, the rangers have a fair level of success.
10 Actually prefer to take cases in the state court as
11 opposed to before the federal magistrate.

12 MR. KRUEPER: Yeah, i mean state court,
13 there's a lot of higher bail schedules that will
14 really, you know -- it's a lot higher than some of the
15 federal courts. With what you're doing, that will
16 definitely have more tools available to the
17 enforcement ranger out there, too, depending on the
18 seriousness of the repeat offender, you know, put a
19 little bit more extra emphasis on the penalty.

20 MR. KALISH: That's correct.

21 MR. WATTENBARGER: Quick, John. So the
22 enforcement agents are just all BLM officers?

23 MR. KALISH: Well, mainly right now the
24 rangers work very closely with the Riverside County
25 Sheriff's office. And you know, for quite a long time

1 through off-highway vehicle grants the County and BLM
2 had set up these off-highway vehicle road patrols
3 involving BLM rangers and County deputies which did
4 nothing but off-highway-vehicle enforcement. They
5 would focus in on an area.

6 They used to get up to Windy Point area
7 frequently and just saturate that area. And then once
8 the word got out, they'd move on to one of the other
9 areas where there was a real issue. But that was a
10 very successful program also. So those cooperative
11 relationships are definitely out there and very
12 effective.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: It's 4:00, and
14 the agenda requires that we take any public comments
15 at this time. It does not appear that there is any
16 member of the public in attendance today. So for the
17 record, there are no public comments. Go on.

18 MR. KRUEPER: Jim, you mentioned fencing
19 in a wash area. What kind of fencing have you tried
20 to put up in a wash area?

21 MR. FOOTE: The fence along Snow Creek
22 Road does run perpendicular to a number of washes.

23 MR. KRUEPER: Right.

24 MR. FOOTE: And it's an interesting
25 system that was developed. It's a post and cables,

1 and the cable spans the areas of wash that were posted
2 in solid ground, not in the sandy wash part. And they
3 have for ease of access, quick access, a locking post
4 you could pull out, and the cables come off. So I
5 would think in one case, if you anticipated or saw
6 that you a very strong rain coming or you might get a
7 flood event, you could, in fact, go out, unlock that,
8 pull down the cables to allow whatever to go in case
9 of any big debris would go through and not take down
10 your fence. It's a very unique system out there, very
11 ingenious.

12 MR. KRUEPER: I want to share with
13 you -- I mean, we've had some success with Carsonite
14 post strung across a wash in smooth wire and at the
15 anchor points, so when water does flow through, the
16 Carsonite -- they're not in the ground. It just flips
17 up, and you don't have to go down and set the fence
18 apart. The fence is up all the time, and when there's
19 those high flows, the actual fence, three-strands of
20 smooth wire, the Carsonite posts, they just lift up
21 and it goes with the flow and you don't have to worry
22 about it. Then it's always up, and you don't have to
23 worry about trying to go back out.

24 MR. FOOTE: That's a great idea. The
25 key usually with any kind of these facilities is your

1 weakest point is what you want to break and design
2 that in and not take out your set posts and concrete.
3 That's the last thing you want, so that's a great
4 solution.

5 To get back to your point, Al, on the
6 fines -- and interesting, as an example we've cited
7 some illegal dog use under the federal code and under
8 the City of Palm Desert ordinance, and under the
9 federal code I don't know if it's 50 or 75 dollars.
10 Under the City code, it's in excess of \$300. So
11 depending on where the person is caught, depends on
12 how much it hurts them in their wallet.

13 MR. MUTH: So you just wait until they
14 step over the line.

15 MR. FOOTE: That's one way to approach
16 it.

17 MR. KALISH: Rangers wouldn't do that.

18 MR. KRUEPER: Tase them.

19 MR. FOOTE: On to the next issue, the
20 alignment in municipal codes, that's in progress. As
21 part of your packet I've provided a comparison of all
22 the proposed code alignments. And this is a code
23 alignment with Multiple Species Plan. There's a
24 Trails Plan element. This takes those actions
25 identified in the Trails Plan element of the MSHCP and

1 puts them in a format that's consistent with the way
2 each city addresses their own municipal codes. They
3 don't do so the same across the board in the six
4 cities that are affected along our urban interface, so
5 we really have to look at that closely to make sure
6 that the proposal at least looks similar to existing
7 municipal codes.

8 This was brought before the Reserve
9 Management Oversight Committee under the MSHCP back in
10 July. It went before the Coachella Valley
11 Conservation Commission just a couple of weeks ago,
12 and they agreed to move it forward. So now the next
13 step is really to continue working with city staffs to
14 move this process forward to the city councils for
15 approval as far as the, of course, change of the
16 municipal code.

17 Bob has worked with the City of Rancho
18 Mirage and the city manager to highlight this process,
19 and I think we're probably ready to go forward, now
20 that it's gone through the CVCC, and CVCC has agreed
21 that this is a legitimate process. And so we will be
22 working with the other cities as well to get the code
23 aligned.

24 MR. WATTENBARGER: A point of information.
25 Is it you and your staff's charter or responsibility

1 to do all of this to interface with everybody to make
2 these things happen?

3 MR. FOOTE: That's a good question. No.
4 My role in working on this has come through as a
5 member of the Trails Management Subcommittee, which is
6 under the CVCC. Under the MSHCP they established this
7 Trails Management Subcommittee to look at issues or
8 ways in which the Trails Plan element of the MSHCP can
9 be implemented. This is one of those elements. So
10 from our standpoint -- from the BLM's standpoint we're
11 the, let's say, biggest affected party, and we span
12 all jurisdictions. So I've taken that upon myself as
13 a member of that subcommittee to move this process
14 forward working in conjunction with the CVAG staff to
15 make this happen.

16 MR. WATTENBARGER: Are they lead agency?

17 MR. FOOTE: Yes, yes, because this is
18 really a non-federal jurisdictional issue under the
19 MSHCP, then, yes, CVAG staff, which supports the CVCC,
20 is the responsible party to move that forward. But I
21 will be working in conjunction with CVAG staff.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: I'm wondering when
23 you have time to sleep. It sounds like you have a
24 full plate.

25 MR. FOOTE: The plate is full, yes.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WEBER: It looks like you guys have
3 had to do a lot of work on this stuff, and I would
4 like to help push this through La Quinta, if that's
5 needed. I mean, looking at the changes, this is
6 nominal stuff, you know, at least for all the cities.
7 I just don't understand how this could be any issue,
8 and it disturbs me a little bit to see that the
9 cities -- in the notes, the comments, the City of
10 La Quinta is awaiting reassurance that the workload is
11 not increased prior to bringing this before the
12 Community Services Commission.

13 Well, I was the former chair of the
14 Community Services Commission, so I know Edie and the
15 staff there real well, and I know the council and as a
16 planning commissioner there, too, I just -- this is
17 stuff that's a no-brainer, and you should be getting
18 no push-back with this at all. So if there's anything
19 I can do, I want to do that to help. I know there's
20 folks we can solicit to make that happen.

21 Hopefully you're going to see La Quinta is
22 working with you well, but if not, let's talk on the
23 side and figure out what I need to help, because I
24 don't want to see La Quinta's name on this anymore.
25 It should be done and over with, and you can focus on

1 other people.

2 MR. FOOTE: Well, thanks, Mark. We did
3 meet with Edie Hylton and others with the City, and
4 that issue about the workload was raised. And I was
5 talking about Katie Barrows this last week. CVAG or
6 CVCC will be initiating a new letter to the cities
7 requesting assistance from staff to move this issue
8 forward. So any assistance you can provide to -- you
9 indicate as, you have, this is a no-brainer.

10 MR. WEBER: We can do that for sure. We
11 can talk to commissioners, as well as Katie and I are
12 both on the planning commission and can somehow inject
13 it that way. This should be done so we can move on to
14 things that are actually difficult. Not to say
15 that -- I mean, you've done a lot of work to make this
16 easy. This is just serving it up, hitting the ball
17 up, and all you've got to do is swing at it. So
18 thanks for all your work on it, but let's talk
19 afterwards and see what more I can do.

20 MR. FOOTE: We have had some pits and
21 starts. I think in Palm Springs, where we were going
22 to have some significant issues relative to the dogs,
23 it did go before their Parks and Recreation
24 Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission
25 approved it to move forward to City Council, and at

1 that point it pretty much died. It never made it
2 before City Council.

3 My guess is that everyone is really, really
4 busy and has higher priorities than this and is
5 tackling those. And so I can't fault the cities for
6 not moving forward. They're very busy.

7 MR. WEBER: I know staff has been
8 impacted.

9 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

10 MR. WEBER: And hopefully the busy
11 nature is -- I know cities like my city in La Quinta
12 has lost a lot of staff members, so maybe that's the
13 nature of the business.

14 MR. FOOTE: I think it is, and that's
15 why we've gone to some extra pains to try to propose
16 specific language at that fits in with their
17 particular city ordinances to make that as easy as
18 possible.

19 MR. WEBER: Right. I certainly have to
20 thank you for that.

21 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Moving on to the next
22 one, the inventory of natural and artificial bighorn
23 sheep water sources on BLM-managed lands. And again
24 this is an idea that we need to look across the board,
25 not just the federal lands side but under the Reserve

1 Management Unit Plan in moving these issues forward
2 that would benefit peninsular bighorn sheep and other
3 species. That is really the best avenue to go. And
4 as we move forward and develop and complete that plan,
5 we'll provide some additional updates at future
6 meetings as we attempt to implement that plan.

7 I will move through these quickly because I
8 think we are running behind schedule. BLM is
9 continuing to implement the existing prohibition on
10 dogs. Right now we are implementing that, of course,
11 on the federal BLM lands and also in the City of
12 Palm Desert, where they have, in fact, aligned their
13 municipal codes with the MSHCP, so we're continuing to
14 implement that action.

15 We have yet to start to develop a strategy
16 to deal with the free-ranging dog packs. That's a
17 very difficult issue when they're free-ranging, a
18 tough one to tackle.

19 Cultural resources, no change from previous
20 times. That's really a funding issue, and we haven't
21 had the funding that would allow us to go forward with
22 that.

23 Web-based outreach, some good news there.
24 Status ongoing, but since we last met, the
25 Mt. San Jacinto State Park has added the electronic

1 Monument web page link to their web page, as has the
2 Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which, of course, ties in
3 with Winter Park Authority.

4 I've also listed the other cities and
5 entities that have also provided those links to the
6 Monument. Either it's the BLM Monument web page, or
7 it's the electronic Monument brochure housed at the
8 Palm Springs Life site.

9 And with that I'll turn it over to Laurie
10 to update these. In the meantime I'm going to work
11 with John to try to hook up a PowerPoint presentation
12 here with his projector. We'll see if our
13 technological restrictions --

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: I thought, hey, John --
15 that is John Ladley, our recreation staff officer on
16 the District, and I thought, hey, since we have our
17 recreation staff officer, why don't we skip the first
18 one. I'll talk about the tamarisks in a moment. And
19 the second one on there is the closure of illegal
20 routes in the Santa Rosa Wilderness, top of
21 Saw Mill Road Santa Rosa Truck Trail and Loop Spur
22 Route to Virgin Springs.

23 And so, John, what we put here is the NEPA
24 is completed, gates to be installed in fall of 2011.
25 Anything you'd like to add?

1 MR. LADLEY: Yeah. Our wilderness and
2 trails manager and our off-highway vehicle technician
3 have been working to develop a strategy to address the
4 illegal route that goes from the top of Saw Mill Truck
5 Trail up to Santa Rosa Truck Trail up top, up in the
6 Toro Canyon area. And the details they've been
7 working on, they do have some signage from down below.
8 And I know they've been gathering materials. They're
9 working with our forestry tech as far as getting some
10 timbers for that as well.

11 I'm acquiring some steel pipe fencing if we
12 need it up there, and then we've got Scout West. It's
13 International Scout four-wheel drive club out of
14 San Diego that's adopted Santa Rosa Truck Trail, and
15 they are willing to keep track at both ends for us as
16 well and assist with the ongoing maintenance needs.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you, John.

18 MS. WATLING: That's great, because I
19 can't tell you how many people have called up and
20 said, "I see lights going across there. There aren't
21 supposed to be any."

22 MR. LADLEY: That's right.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Now you can give them
24 information.

25 MS. WATLING: Yeah.

1 MR. MORGAN: The road that was opened to
2 Virgin Springs, what has happened on that?

3 MR. LADLEY: Currently we've made no
4 progress on that.

5 MR. MORGAN: Any plans to make any
6 progress?

7 MR. LADLEY: Boy, that's probably going
8 to come down to a funding issue because it will take
9 NEPA and materials.

10 MR. MORGAN: Just put the cable back.
11 There's a cable across the entrance that was removed
12 by Forest Service contractors.

13 MS. WATLING: I can tell you a cable
14 story too. Our cables and really expensive locks for
15 the cabin were all cut and taken away.

16 MR. MUTH: It was chain, not cable?

17 MS. WATLING: Maybe it was chain or
18 going to cable.

19 MR. MUTH: Cable.

20 MS. ROSENTHAL: As I talked about
21 earlier, without discretionary funding, you know, some
22 of the things, once we get our ratio of employees to
23 discretionary funding where we can have maybe 20
24 percent of discretionary funding, then we could maybe
25 replace cables and things like that. But over the

1 next few years it's going to be -- the discretionary
2 funding is going to be minimal at best.

3 The next one here, John, if you could
4 comment on that. It's about replacing Forest Service
5 signs to reflect the Monument location. Sorry, John.

6 MR. LADLEY: I'll multitask. I'm just
7 used to doing that.

8 The Forest Service signs on the National
9 Monument on the Forest Service lands, the plan is to
10 replace them and eliminate the National Forest service
11 portions of them and replace that with
12 Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
13 logos -- not logos. I'm sorry -- wording. We have
14 acquired the signs. And that's for -- let's see --
15 Saw Mill Trail, Ribbonwood Equestrian Campground,
16 Pinyon Flats Campground, Cahuilla Tewanet -- I think
17 I'm missing one -- and an entry sign for Santa Rosa
18 Mountain on Santa Rosa Truck Trail. So the signs we
19 do have. We still need to come up with hardware
20 posts, you know, the supports and all, and so
21 hopefully sometime in the next year we can get those
22 up.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: So I'm going to go back
24 to the one that was the highest priority for the
25 Forest Service, which was Palm Canyon tamarisk

1 eradication. A couple years ago we received \$42,000
2 in grants, including -- some of it was from the
3 Agua Caliente tribe. So we completed the NEPA for
4 that, a long and lengthy process. And we have a small
5 window each year to actually do the eradication. It's
6 September through early October between the end of the
7 bird-breeding season and when the tamarisk loses its
8 leaves, which is probably about the beginning to
9 middle of October or so, because the herbicide is no
10 longer effective once the tamarisk loses its leaves.

11 So the tamarisk treatment started last
12 week, and we will be using -- knock on wood -- a
13 heli-tech crew because some of this is three-hour walk
14 each way from the road. So it's just not practical.
15 And so by using our heli-tech crew -- these are our
16 firefighters for the helicopter -- they can just fly
17 right in, do the work cutting and piling, and then
18 followed by -- we have two herbicide applicators,
19 Kate Kramer, who is our district botanist and a
20 contractor.

21 And so we're really hoping that the weather
22 will hold up and that the heli-tech crew won't end up
23 on some fire, because, of course, that's their primary
24 mission. And so in this next few weeks and early
25 October, we plan to really get involved. We also for

1 the next two weekends have volunteers from the Friends
2 of the Desert Mountains and Outward Bound coming to
3 continue on. Their work is going to be closer to the
4 road, and so the good news -- see, before I give you
5 bad news; now I'm giving you better news -- is that we
6 will have some tamarisk eradication happening this
7 year.

8 Not a lot of funding we know of for next
9 year at this point, though the grants that we had
10 applied for previously are no longer available, but
11 we'll keep looking for avenues of funding for this
12 important project.

13 MR. WATTENBARGER: Question. Once you,
14 I guess, kill the tamarisk, they don't come back?

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: Right. Exactly. See,
16 if you just cut them, that's not enough. You either
17 have to dig the root up or -- which is very, very
18 difficult, especially when you don't have any heavy
19 equipment, because they're way off the road -- or you
20 do herbicide. It's a very safe herbicide application.
21 And so yes, that is correct.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: The ones here on I-10
23 that burned, they seem to be coming back.

24 MS. ROSENTHAL: Burning is the worse
25 thing you can do. Tamarisk loves burns.

1 MR. WATTENBARGER: Really?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah. They propagate
3 big time.

4 MR. MORGAN: The ones on I-10 are a
5 completely different species.

6 MR. WEBER: Are tamarisks that size, the
7 ones on I-10 -- are those the ones that are being
8 addressed, or that's a different species, a huge size
9 one, because those are the kind that are down in
10 Merv Griffin's old property. I know they chopped
11 them, and they're just coming right back. You have to
12 pull them all out by root and everything, get
13 everything out.

14 MR. MUTH: Which herbicide are you
15 using?

16 MS. ROSENTHAL: It's a very long name.
17 I'm sorry. I don't have that information in my head.

18 MR. MUTH: I'm just wondering, because
19 we use Garlon. You cut it, paint the stump
20 immediately, and it works whether it's got leaf on it
21 or not. Or you can just -- if it's less than an inch
22 in diameter, you can spray the base, and it kills it.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Our botanist, she went
24 through all the training. She did lots of research to
25 find the most effective herbicide, but it's a long

1 name, and it's just somewhere in this brain.

2 MS. WATLING: Who is it? Is it someone
3 I can talk with?

4 MS. ROSENTHAL: Kate Kramer.

5 MS. WATLING: Oh, you said that, because
6 Al has done a lot of removal. We've done a lot in the
7 reserve. And the deal is, you just skip the leaves
8 because they're waxy anyway. But you cut it and spray
9 on the cambium immediately, like have two people, one
10 cut, one spray before the capillaries shut down, and
11 you can work with it that way.

12 One of the problems with it, it has nine
13 billion seeds per plant, and they're windborne, so
14 where you have it, you'll always have it. But we've
15 had war on this in our little common turf for years.

16 MS. ROSENTHAL: Why don't we chat
17 afterwards, and I'll give you her phone number,
18 because if you guys have some way to make this more
19 efficient or whatever, we're definitely open. You
20 know, it's different when you have all the heavy
21 equipment because tamarisk is at the side of the road
22 and you're just getting the roots, but this is brand
23 new for us to be working on this.

24 And then the last three are at this point
25 in a holding pattern. I'm hoping to have more

1 information, especially on the Fuller Ridge hazardous
2 tree removal. We'll have to see where we end up with
3 our hazardous trees project. And then do you want to
4 talk about the Cahuilla Tewanet interpretive signs,
5 because the interpretive specialist is the one who is
6 taking the lead on that.

7 MR. FOOTE: As you know, the
8 interpretive signs at Cahuilla Tewanet have been
9 degraded due to weather and time. They were
10 fiberglass-embedded signs, and that fiberglass is
11 raising, and they're not looking very good. They're
12 not holding up well at this point in time. Our
13 interpretive specialist has developed a scope of work.
14 We'll be submitting it out to potential contractors
15 this month, and we'll start that process in terms of
16 replacement. Hopefully in not too long we will see
17 new signs.

18 MS ROSENTHAL: Remember, now we have a
19 new deck. It's really a nice site, if you haven't
20 been there in the past three years. We want to make
21 the whole site more beautiful.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: Where is that?

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: If you go up Highway 74
24 from the Visitor Center on the left-hand side, you'll
25 see a day-use -- if you haven't been there.

1 MR. WATTENBARGER: You're talking about
2 the Cahuilla Tewanet?

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: C-a-h-u-i-l-l-a, capital
4 T-e-w-a-n-e-t, Cahuilla Tewanet.

5 MR. WATTENBARGER: We pass it all the
6 time going up to hike the trails.

7 MS. ROSENTHAL: If you haven't been to
8 the site, it's one of our few areas that you can
9 really get a very nice view of quite a bit of the
10 Monument. And so we will have interpretive signs as
11 we go.

12 MR. WATTENBARGER: Before she finishes,
13 which -- can I just say one thing? Can you give your
14 staff at the ranger station attaboy and girl. They're
15 very friendly and cooperative. I'm sure that comes
16 from the top down.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: I actually will. And
18 John is the supervisor for them as well.

19 MR. LADLEY: That's appreciated. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. WEBER: So the funding for that has
22 been approved, the signage? I saw in the notes, if
23 I'm not looking at the wrong one, it says "funding
24 unlikely." Is that the Monument sign we're talking
25 about? Or is that the visitor services?

1 MR. FOOTE: If you go back to the
2 Page 5, the second one from the bottom -- pardon me.
3 I'm on the wrong one. Excuse me. The bottom one the
4 project may be well along by the end of FY2011. We've
5 already secured the \$25,000. That is money we've
6 received from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
7 Indians several years ago, so our funding largely is
8 in place.

9 MR. WEBER: For doing both the bottom
10 two or just the one?

11 MS. ROSENTHAL: Cahuilla Tewanet.

12 MR. WEBER: So the third one down on the
13 right side, it says "agency funding unlikely," so it
14 looked like there was going to be an issue. I guess
15 what's what I'm honing in on because it sounds like
16 that's the sign we're talking about and the funding is
17 there.

18 MR. FOOTE: Correct.

19 MR. WEBER: Okay. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Are we ready for
21 John's report?

22 MR. LADLEY: Okay.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Here is some more good
24 news, by the way.

25 MR. LADLEY: I'm not sure who I'm going

1 to block here.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: We'll move.
3 Instead of just talking to people and throwing out
4 numbers and figures and accomplishments, we thought
5 we'd do a little pictorial, because it's much more
6 interesting to actually see what got accomplished on
7 the ground. Really that's been quite a bit. We
8 received a fair amount of funds under a number of
9 different categories. And exact numbers of funds for
10 what I don't have on the top of my head, but I do know
11 what we did with them.

12 And so I'd like to run through real quickly
13 some of what we've accomplished to date on the
14 National Monument. This was all through ARRA,
15 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. And I
16 think we did a pretty good job of spreading of that
17 around. We utilized California Conservation Crews.
18 We used some of our own staff people. We used
19 volunteers, Monument -- BLM and Monument people
20 assisted. So we've been grabbing ahold of pretty much
21 anybody we can get to implement some of this.

22 With that being said --

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Because the funding was
24 not to be used for Forest Service time to implement.
25 The whole point was to hire people to increase the

1 workforce. But when that funding ran out, then we
2 ended up with some actual facilities, but we still
3 needed to install them.

4 MR. LADLEY: I want to start with
5 trails. Through ARRA funding and also some that was
6 directed over from the BLM -- correct me if I'm wrong
7 on that -- we combined the Forest Service ARRA funding
8 for the National Monument and BLM funding, and we got
9 California Conservation Crews out on the ground. We
10 actually had this crew for a total of a year and a
11 half, so we were able to do a lot of work on the
12 district, on the National Monument and just kept them
13 rolling. A very good crew. We were look lucky. We
14 had a superb crew leader.

15 So what did they do on the ground? They
16 lobbed brush, they maintained the trail tread, and as
17 the year and a half went on, they became more and more
18 skilled in rock work so either constructed or
19 reconstructed a number of water bars and drainages.
20 They rebuilt retaining walls. They removed rock
21 falls, and some of this actually became kind of
22 industrial and pretty interesting how they got this
23 stuff out of the trail. They cleared a number of
24 downed trees in different parts of the Monument,
25 particularly up in the higher elevations, and reopened

1 the trails. And if we had reroutes around downed
2 trees, they rehabilitated those areas, put the
3 original trail back.

4 So their accomplishments on the National
5 Monument were 30 miles of basic trail maintenance --
6 and some of that really needed maintenance -- 125
7 water bars and check dams were reconstructed, 350 feet
8 of retention walls were constructed, and 30 downed
9 trees were cut out of trails. Most of these weren't
10 small trees, you know, substantial blockages on the
11 trails. That was one part of what we did.

12 Then we also had funding for materials. We
13 didn't have funding for people to implement the use of
14 these materials, so that's where it all got really
15 interesting along the way. But at the Ribbonwood
16 Equestrian Campground -- and this is one of the signs
17 I have a replacement for. So at the bottom it won't
18 be "National Forest" on there, but it will be
19 "National Monument."

20 We replaced the worn picnic tables and fire
21 grills at Ribbonwood Campground with accessible
22 concrete picnic tables. They're durable and really
23 nice and new fire grills. At Pinyon Flats Campground
24 again another sign we have a replacement for. We were
25 able to obtain the same tables and the campfire

1 grills. We replaced all the tables and fire grills
2 within the Pinyon Flats Campground. A couple of the
3 bigger sites we put double tables in to accommodate
4 larger groups.

5 In Santa Rosa Mountain, the yellow post
6 sites have long -- I've been here eight years. Since
7 I've been here, that's been on our list as far as a
8 priority Monument project because basically they were
9 terrible, pretty degraded, all of them. So that kind
10 of shows the need there. The folks on the National
11 Monument organized two volunteer weekends where we had
12 a number of volunteers come up. We did have the
13 materials. We needed the labor, and we advertised
14 this as fresh air, good food and heavy labor, which it
15 was.

16 So this is installing the fire grills or
17 fire rings up on Santa Rosa Mountain at the yellow
18 post sites. Yellow post is designated dispersed
19 campsites, ripping out the old, putting in the new.
20 This is one of the completed sites. We also cleaned
21 up the sites, did fire clearances, cut brush, put in
22 new yellow posts. You can somewhat see on the left
23 and the right. It's not quite the same angle, but it
24 is the same site. So we have the before and after.
25 It's really been a nice cleanup, a really nice group

1 of volunteers that came out to join us for the
2 weekend.

3 So that weekend I think we had 12
4 volunteers. We rehabilitated 16 yellow post camp
5 sites. Ten of the sites we put in the concrete
6 accessible tables. In locations where the roads were
7 too rough to get the accessible tables in, we reused
8 some of the wood tables, our better tables that had
9 been left over from other campground where we also put
10 in new tables. We added 16 new fire grills, and
11 basically there was a huge effort over two days.

12 A really good group of people. I think the
13 youngest was 19, and the oldest was early seventies.
14 Real fun, mixed group. The Friends also provided the
15 cabin that weekend. We wanted to say thank you,
16 because that night it got really cold and really
17 windy. We did the bulk of the work on a Saturday and
18 finished up on Sunday. This is Saturday evening at
19 the cabin. We added some barbecue.

20 MR. WEBER: Did some serious eating,
21 too. Got some good stuff there.

22 MR. LADLEY: Oh, yeah. If people are
23 going to come out and work that hard for a weekend, we
24 try to take care of them. That's our job. And
25 beautiful sunset that evening, which is a treat. The

1 volunteer weekend number two, some of these folks came
2 back again, which is awesome.

3 MR. WEBER: You didn't scare them off.
4 They are sturdy folks.

5 MR. LADLEY: Oh, my gosh. The second
6 weekend was to rehabilitate the Santa Rosa Spring
7 site, which also had two yellow post campsites. The
8 campsites -- we had already done the work there, but
9 our biggest job was building a retaining wall to hold
10 back the bank that keeps crumbling and encroaching on
11 that site, the spring itself and the campsite and the
12 parking area. So that's some of our landscaping
13 blocks. We call it the great wall. We started by
14 digging the trench, leveling the trench. These blocks
15 weigh 84 pounds apiece.

16 MR. WEBER: You guys dig the trench by
17 hand?

18 MR. LADLEY: I had a backhoe up there
19 prior, but we still had a lot of leveling to do and
20 started laying the foundation blocks and then started
21 to build on the foundation.

22 MR. WEBER: Nice.

23 MR. LADLEY: We started more or less in
24 the center. One group went and split the group in
25 two. I think we had 11 people up there. Half the

1 group went to the left, half the group went to the
2 right, and we started. Once we had our foundation, we
3 started building out, going up and keep coming up.
4 It's the last block being laid, and then it got cap
5 blocks after that. And this was another day and a
6 half up there.

7 So that's the completed project up there
8 holding back some of the hillside that you can see in
9 the background. They finished that up by doing the
10 front filling and backfilling and doing the whole
11 site. We finished that up on a Sunday following the
12 Saturday of really heavy labor.

13 MR. KRUEPER: Any rehab to those tree
14 roots being exposed? Did you backfill behind there?

15 MR. LADLEY: About as high as we could
16 go.

17 MR. KRUEPER: I see all those trees up
18 there with their roots exposed.

19 MR. LADLEY: Yeah. We cut down -- our
20 fire cutting crew from one of the stations went up a
21 week prior to that, took down the trees that were
22 really hazardous up there, and we left the solid ones.
23 So yeah, everybody had a part. The fire crew also
24 donated a day, which helped a lot. So the retaining
25 wall at Santa Rosa was 72 feet linear length total,

1 which represented about 70,000 pounds of block,
2 cleaned up the side, recontoured and again just an
3 incredible effort. And again that evening we started
4 out with --

5 MS. ROSENTHAL: You are getting us
6 hungry, John.

7 MR. LADLEY: And barbecue. Anyone
8 that's going to help me move 70,000 pounds of block
9 needs a reward or a psychologist, one of the two. We
10 camped out that night, told stories, had a slide show.
11 And again an incredible sunset. I did want to
12 highlight some of the people that really were key,
13 particularly to the volunteer projects and that's
14 Stacey Wellman from the Forest Service, who is our
15 National Monument technician, Arielle -- and I don't
16 know her last name -- who volunteered.

17 MS. WATLING: Machio.

18 MR. LADLEY: Thank you, who really
19 helped volunteers and crew and logistics with people.
20 Emily from the Bureau of Land Management, who also did
21 a whole lot of the same with food logistics, the
22 people logistics, making sure everybody got there, was
23 prepared with jackets and all, gloves, dirty boots.
24 And Steve Harrison, who is also right in the middle
25 working hard, great guy.

1 MS. ROSENTHAL: After our recreation
2 planner.

3 MR. LADLEY: Yes. And a special thanks
4 to all the volunteers that donated two weekends of
5 what was really, you know, really nice place to be but
6 very hard labor. That's it.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. LADLEY: Thanks for letting me share
9 that.

10 MR. KRUEPER: What was your CCC group
11 out of? Pomona or San Bernardino?

12 MR. LADLEY: I believe, out of
13 San Bernardino.

14 MR. KRUEPER: That group that you had
15 for your CCC group?

16 MR. LADLEY: Yeah. And Jose -- I should
17 know his last name. Jose is an incredible
18 back-country crew leader.

19 MR. KRUEPER: We've been having some
20 success with State Parks with two crews up in our park
21 this whole summer. And yeah, the Pomona group has
22 really come through the from the CCC.

23 MR. LADLEY: Excellent. You can see
24 them really bump up their skills over time, which has
25 been fun to see. All of a sudden I got a bunch of

1 kids that are directing retention-wall work and such,
2 and it's really neat to see.

3 MR. KRUEPER: And remind them they're
4 leaving a legacy that will probably last 50 to 60
5 years of a trail construction, which originally was
6 built in the 30s. Mark, a question.

7 MR. WEBER: Like I mentioned to Laurie,
8 I really want to see the Boy Scouts troop be a part of
9 getting knee deep or neck deep in what you're doing as
10 appropriate up there. We've already made some
11 contact, but we've got a number of scouts looking for
12 Eagle projects. To me that's exactly what we want to
13 do. We want to go up, we want to, you know,
14 incorporate the hiking and camping experience and
15 doing the Eagle projects.

16 And so we've already made some contacts,
17 but I want to talk to you about that for sure because
18 I've got a number of guys that could do that and
19 hopefully build that into the legacy of what the troop
20 is doing and partner with you guys.

21 MR. LADLEY: There's always something
22 that needs doing. When we had the backhoe up there,
23 we also did some leveling at the top of Saw Mill
24 Trail, so there was room for three or four cars for
25 parking at the top of the trail. So we got that

1 little piece accomplished too.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Any other
3 questions for John? Let's move on to our 4:30 item,
4 action item on work group establishment for, I assume,
5 the upcoming programs. Is this a review of what we
6 did last year?

7 MR. FOOTE: No, actually not. This is a
8 new action item, and let me give you a little bit of
9 background on this. Some folks may recall that in
10 about year five or slightly beyond of the National
11 Monument, a BLM and Forest Service team visited the
12 area to do an assessment of where we are, what we had
13 accomplished, what remains to be done and what works,
14 what wasn't working in the National Monument.

15 Well, another five years has already
16 passed, and I thought it might be appropriate to
17 really establish a work group that can report back to
18 the Monument Advisory Committee to really once again
19 evaluate where we are in the National Monument, we are
20 we in terms of implementing the plan, what's working,
21 not working, where can we improve, what are the
22 low-hanging fruits we can go right after, what are
23 some issues that are going to be a little more
24 complex, whether because of the nature of the project
25 or the funding issues that are facing us.

1 So in your packet I provided a number of --
2 I think there's about five items here, one going back
3 to the National Monument Plan, the first one being the
4 National Monument Committee Advisory Report. This is
5 a reflection of what the Monument Advisory Committee
6 at that time, when we were preparing the plan, wished
7 that the federal agency would pursue, what was it that
8 was important to the Advisory Committee, how did they
9 want to see that incorporated in the plan? And so
10 it's a good reference point for looking at an
11 assessment or current assessment of where we stand now
12 in the National Monument.

13 The second handout here is simply trying
14 to, again, add some more context to it, looking at the
15 different program areas and comparing the BLM
16 California Desert Conservation Area Plan, that is a
17 basic land use plan which still governs the National
18 Monument, with the San Bernardino National Forest Land
19 Use Plan. Now, the Forest plan shows 1989. When we
20 developed the National Monument Plan, that was the
21 current version. This will need to be updated, too,
22 because there's been a revision to the Forest plan.
23 So we need to take that into consideration.

24 Another document in your packet, of course,
25 is the Record of Decision as just a general outline.

1 This is a Record of Decision for the National Monument
2 Plan. This tells you how we looked at the National
3 Monument Advisory Committee input, what we did to
4 incorporate that into the plan. Here's the decision.
5 Of course, you really need to look at the entire plan
6 to get the full understanding. But it would be the
7 basis for doing another assessment.

8 Following up that in your packet is the
9 actual 2006 Management Assessment that was put
10 together by the Forest Service and BLM team. Again,
11 it makes recommendations. This would be another good
12 document to base current assessment on, where do we
13 come from this, have we made progress on some of the
14 issues that that assessment team identified, have we
15 not made progress, what have we completed, again, what
16 are we doing well, and what are we not doing well?

17 And the final document in your packet, just
18 for reference, is the Manager's Annual Report For
19 Fiscal Year 2010, which I developed earlier this year
20 to report on what we did in fiscal year '10. We also
21 have previous years' reports we can reflected upon.
22 The 2011 will be coming.

23 What I did not provide in your packet but
24 which this group has been provided before was the
25 State of the National Landscape Conservation System

1 from the Wilderness Society, which was a report card
2 that went monument by monument, and there's specific
3 pages to this. Again, a good tool for assessing where
4 we're at. And I think -- and this is again for the
5 Monument Advisory Committee to reflect on, and we
6 haven't had any specific direction to do this. But I
7 think from the standpoint of managing the National
8 Monument, it's always good to reflect on where we are,
9 where we're going and whether this particular body
10 sees our direction as the right way to go.

11 And so what I'm proposing here for the
12 group to take action is on is, do you agree that that
13 is a reasonable approach and to establish a work group
14 that we can convene on a number of occasions to pursue
15 this to really develop our own analysis and assessment
16 of the state of the National Monument in hopes of
17 moving us forward? I think this becomes really
18 important as we get into reduced budgets to really
19 focus on those kinds of things that we can do that
20 we're sure we can accomplish.

21 Where we need help is where we need to
22 develop partnerships, and we need to develop more
23 partnerships. There's any number of issues here that
24 go into assessment and looking for some assistance
25 here from members of this group, again, from the work

1 group.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Any discussions
3 or questions for Jim?

4 MR. FOOTE: I guess we're looking for
5 volunteers.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: Everybody is looking
7 down.

8 MR. FOOTE: And this would be similar
9 to, I think, the work groups we established or the
10 product we reviewed today. We had three work group
11 meetings I thought were very productive. And I would
12 not necessarily constrain it to everyone who wants to
13 put up their hand today or not put up their hand, but
14 I'll be forwarding information and try to set up some
15 dates to convene at a convenient meeting place and
16 open the door to any of the members that want to
17 participate in that. And hopefully we'll get a
18 response that will indicate that some will show up and
19 that will be enough to move us forward and start this
20 process.

21 It's an additional workload, certainly, for
22 me, but I think it's a critical one. And I would
23 almost envision that there would be at some point
24 coming soon some direction to do another assessment.
25 It's been five years. About five years ago the BLM

1 and Forest Service management thought it reasonable to
2 pursue this. Many of you were perhaps interviewed by
3 that assessment team, because that was part of the
4 assessment to look at how the public saw the Monument
5 as moving forward. I don't know as if it would go
6 into that at this point. I think this will mostly be
7 an internal effort from the agency working with the
8 Monument Advisory Committee and any others that we
9 think would be reasonable to invite to the effort.

10 As you know, work groups can be comprised
11 of anybody that we feel is necessary to show up. It
12 does not have to be open to just members.

13 MR. MORGAN: It's also open to the
14 public.

15 MR. FOOTE: Exactly. The public is
16 invited to these, invited to participate. There are
17 really no constraints on how this comes together. So
18 I'm just looking for some response, feedback, whether
19 this is a good idea that the MAC wants to be involved
20 with or not.

21 MR. KRUEPER: I think you have a good
22 proposal, Jim, on that. You got some response the
23 last time you did a work group. You got some people
24 together.

25 MR. MORGAN: I'm pretty busy for the

1 rest of this year, so starting after the new year I
2 would be more available than I will be for the rest of
3 this year.

4 MR. FOOTE: That's a good point. As we
5 get into the holiday seasons, there's always
6 difficulty. I think we convened our first meeting at
7 the last work group in December, so we did beat the
8 Christmas holidays and still had a pretty good
9 turnout. I think it's matter of availability, and
10 certainly I would anticipate is probably no more than
11 one meeting, if we did have the meetings before the
12 end of the calendar year, and then we can always catch
13 Jeff up to speed, if need be.

14 I think the timing of this will be of
15 consideration when we look at when the next MAC
16 meeting, maybe in terms of reporting back. Would we
17 want a finished product, or is this actually going to
18 take longer? I'm not sure we would know that until we
19 get really into the details and we process forward
20 whether or not we could really have a product for
21 reporting back to the MAC for action by the next
22 normally scheduled MAC meeting, which would be March,
23 or if it would be delayed. But nevertheless I think a
24 meeting would be useful.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Is there any

1 top-down deadline you're trying to satisfy?

2 MR. FOOTE: No, no. This is developed
3 down at this level. In fact the idea was just mine
4 this last week, thinking that this would be a good
5 process going through preparing an agenda and looking
6 at this Monument assessment done five years ago. And
7 amazingly five and a half years have gone by. And
8 it's timely to look at this on a regular basis, and it
9 seems like every five years is a good time to do it.
10 And we're there.

11 MR. WATTENBARGER: So I guess that
12 answers my question. Do you feel that this is part of
13 the MAC's scope of work to look at this on a periodic
14 basis?

15 MR. FOOTE: Absolutely, to have this
16 input. Our desire is to seek recommendations from the
17 MAC on implementation of the plan, and an assessment
18 is a good way to do that. It will be broader than the
19 exercise we went through last time of prioritizing a
20 small set of projects. This is looking much broader
21 and further down in terms of fiscal years. We won't
22 be looking just at the upcoming fiscal year, but we'll
23 be looking at a longer-range assessment, what can we
24 do in short-term, what can we do in long-term and
25 what's realistic, and where do we need to focus those

1 efforts?

2 MR. WATTENBARGER: This kind of gives us
3 what they call the 30,000-foot overview of the -- or
4 10,800 feet at the top of Mt. San Jacinto overview of
5 the Monument? That's what you kind of have here?

6 MR. FOOTE: I would get to a lower
7 elevation. That's maybe a little too broad. I would
8 get a little more details.

9 MR. KRUEPER: Tram height.

10 MR. WEBER: Basically you're having a
11 group of folks to start the process. I think probably
12 all of us agree that that makes sense to do that. If
13 you're going to continue to have a plan, you have to
14 revisit it every few years, possibly meeting before
15 year end and then possibly meeting, you know, first
16 quarter prior to the next MAC meeting and then
17 continuing on as, you know, needed until completion.

18 MR. FOOTE: I think so. Normally these
19 kinds of processes are -- we're back to the well-used
20 analogy of peeling the onion, that you start at one
21 point and you really don't know what the next level of
22 involvement is going to be until you start to peel
23 away those layers, and you may find that you have to
24 either focus the effort more to make it realistic to
25 actually accomplish it. Those are the kinds of things

1 that we can develop along the way, and we have that
2 freedom and flexibility to do that since at this point
3 there's no mandate that we're working under to get
4 this done.

5 I think this is a very good, proactive
6 approach to looking at Monument management and seeing
7 where we can go and what's our highest and best use,
8 if you will, making use of the resources we have,
9 where do we need to focus.

10 MR. WEBER: And I think it's a good push
11 to also encourage the participation of the agencies
12 that should be sitting around this table that maybe
13 haven't taken action to appoint members or to have
14 folks, you know, that are stepping up, because when I
15 look at the attendance sheet and I see a lot of dark
16 spaces there, that's sad. And this is a way to engage
17 them maybe that they can have an impact.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: I think it's also
19 a way for some of our new members to get up to speed
20 on some of the background that has led up to the
21 Management Plan that we have and begin to discuss it
22 on a little bit more detailed level than we would see
23 just in print. So maybe I would look for, Mark, if
24 you would be willing to volunteer.

25 MR. WEBER: I'd love to.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Jeff?

2 MR. WATTENBARGER: Well, you called me a
3 newbie, so --

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: I had you two in
5 mind. I think Jeff had indicated after the first of
6 the year he would be a bit more available, and I
7 certainly would be available as well.

8 MR. FOOTE: I would also anticipate that
9 we would be looking at those other agency plans, for
10 instance, Mt. San Jacinto Plan, what's going on in
11 Fish and Game, those kinds of things that help us
12 provide a landscape view, of course, and integrate the
13 assessment with the how the MSHCP fits in with that,
14 looking at all these kinds of things.

15 See, there has been a lot of changes since
16 the last assessment was done, one large one being the
17 adoption of the MSHCP, and I think that puts a certain
18 perspective on how we assess where we go and what we
19 can do in the future and integrating with those kinds
20 of other activities and plans.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Not to prejudge
22 anything, but just as a question, if the Management
23 Plan had to be amended, what is the process of doing
24 that? Is it the same process as the original
25 adoption?

1 MR. FOOTE: No. Well, yes and no.
2 Those familiar with monument plans would look from the
3 BLM perspective there are only a handful of actions
4 that actually amend the California Conservation Desert
5 Area Plan. Most of the plans are really focused on
6 guidance and some level of implementation actions, so
7 unless there was a sense that the land use plan
8 decision was needing a revision, then we would go at
9 and look at the process.

10 You wouldn't have to go through the land
11 use plan amendment process. We're just kind of
12 updating. We may have need to just go through a plan
13 maintenance activity, which is a whole different
14 thing. A lot of the actions we've identified in the
15 plan, in fact, do not necessitate development of
16 additional NEPA because they're not a land-allocation
17 issue, like things dealing with interpretation. How
18 are you going to deal with interpretation on a
19 particular issue? Well, you don't have to do a NEPA
20 on that.

21 We may look at the existing plan and say,
22 that needs some refinement. We need to change
23 direction of whatever we are going here, whether it's
24 not clear enough or needs a new focus. That's the
25 kind of thing of, if we have an assessment of where

1 we're at, we can really detail.

2 So part of, as we move this process, will
3 be looking at where we are now. And that's going to
4 require a certain amount of background, saying, what
5 have we done? We need to compile those kinds of
6 things. Where are we now? And I think that's where
7 we always have to start, looking at where we've been,
8 where we are now, before you look at the future.

9 I can't say -- right now I can't put
10 together and give you a full package of where we are.
11 That's going to require a little work to put together.
12 So I think in advance of our first meeting, I would
13 tend to do something of that nature so that we have a
14 sense of where we are. I provided these materials
15 today as, say, some homework for those that want to
16 participate. There should be some understanding of
17 what our plan is, what the previous assessment
18 identified, where the MAC back in 2002 thought we
19 should be going, what direction and whether or not
20 that's still relevant or pertinent, what parts are,
21 what parts aren't so that, when we have the first
22 meeting, there's an historical basis from which to
23 build. I think that's really critical so that we can
24 have productive meetings and not have to spend an
25 awful lot of time of where we were in a historical

1 sense.

2 MR. WEBER: Just looking at it, I'm
3 starting to do my homework here. You had a powerful
4 committee of folks there. That's an impressive group
5 of folks here, some of them still around the table.
6 And it looks like you met seven times in 2002 to
7 accomplish this, so a lot of activity and field trips,
8 smaller work groups. It's a lot of work. But I think
9 it's something that needs to be done. I'd love to
10 play a part and help.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: As usual we
12 expect some direction from our DFO when we get to the
13 point of having to make some choices or at least give
14 us some direction for considerations for amending
15 various parts of our Management Plan.

16 MR. FOOTE: Clarity will be forthcoming,
17 I hope.

18 MR. KRUEPER: Okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Okay. So we will
20 kind of wait for you to send on us some notices on
21 that and see if we can find a place to meet and get
22 going on it.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Just a clarification.
24 I've heard a few people say they were interested. But
25 are you asking at this point who's interested to be on

1 the committee, or are you just going to send out an
2 e-mail and whoever wants to come or --

3 MR. FOOTE: Well, both. I think we got
4 some interest today from others, but there are others
5 that aren't here that may want to participate. So it
6 will be an open invitation.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Okay. We have
8 some updates from BLM land exchange.

9 MR. FOOTE: We're right back to being on
10 schedule right at 5:00. We caught up. In terms of
11 the Agua Caliente proposed land exchange, there was a
12 download of where we were at the last March 7th
13 meeting, so I won't go over all of that. It's just
14 that simply nothing has changed since then. We still
15 anticipate going out with a Notice of Intent to
16 prepare an EIS this fall with likely scoping meetings
17 that would occur in the January-February timeframe to
18 identify the issues to be addressed in the EIS. That
19 will take advantage of those folks who are very much
20 interested in trail issues when we'll be back in the
21 valley, and he will try to attend and participate in
22 those meetings, which is why we're delaying moving
23 forward with the NOI.

24 But we'll be looking to publish that in
25 this fall in anticipating we'll have public meetings

1 in effect that part of the calendar year.

2 MR. MORGAN: A question. Are you doing
3 it inhouse or sending it out?

4 MR. FOOTE: Largely inhouse. EIS's
5 don't have to be this expansive documentation. EIS is
6 more process than it is a change in what is your
7 environmental analysis. There will be some additional
8 analysis required, as we'll be developing additional
9 alternatives. But I believe we can fill a lot of that
10 based on work we already have.

11 MR. MORGAN: I'm not sure you can build
12 much on that.

13 MR. WATTENBARGER: I don't know what
14 your acronym is, EIR, whatever you prepare. Is that
15 approved by anybody or submitted to anybody?

16 MR. FOOTE: At this stage we prepared an
17 environmental assessment. One of the primary
18 functions of that is to determine whether an EIS is
19 necessary or environmental impact statement, which on
20 the non-federal side is the equivalent of an EIR. And
21 as we go through the regulatory process for doing
22 that, the first step of which is to develop the Notice
23 of Intent to prepare an EIS, and that then launches
24 the public scoping meetings, and the public is then
25 invited to assist in identifying what issues need to

1 be addressed in this EIR. And then we move on to
2 preparation of the draft EIS, at which point we'll
3 issue that with a range of alternatives for public
4 comment review, ultimately leading to a final EIS and
5 decision.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: So that's a required
7 document, the EIS?

8 MR. FOOTE: Once we determine if we're
9 going to proceed with the action and we determine that
10 there is potential significant impacts in the
11 environment, yes, we would have to prepare an EIS to
12 reach a decision.

13 MR. WATTENBARGER: Is that the action of
14 the actual exchange itself?

15 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

16 MR. WATTENBARGER: Thank you.

17 MR. FOOTE: Any other questions on the
18 land exchange?

19 MR. KALISH: One real difference in
20 overall attack that we plan to take in preparing this
21 EIS is very up front. We really get actively involved
22 with the public, and the constituency groups, those
23 individuals and groups that have some real issues tied
24 into this land exchange, really open up that dialogue.
25 As we go into the issue identification and scoping

1 process, I think, as we prepared it originally the
2 environmental assessment, we knew there were some
3 issues out there.

4 We didn't really anticipate the level of
5 controversy tied into this land exchange. We now
6 fully understand it, and we definitely intend to
7 really be out there, up front, really having a
8 dialogue with the public about all of the issues that
9 they brought forth during the environmental assessment
10 process and then any new issues that they're going to
11 bring forth as we go into the scoping process. So it
12 will be handled a little bit differently than we
13 handled the preparation of the environment assessment.

14 MR. FOOTE: For anyone interested in
15 looking at a detailed map of what the exchange parcels
16 are, I also have that here if you'd like to look at it
17 after the meeting.

18 The next issue is the Wind Energy
19 Partnership proposed project. Wind Energy Partnership
20 is actually the name of the Cabazon Wind Energy
21 project, the Bill and Brad Adams Company, Wind Energy
22 Partnership. Again not much has changed since the
23 last meeting, but I'll ask John to throw in a quick
24 update of what has happened.

25 MR. KALISH: Well, we've been

1 coordinating with the County in that there was a
2 County side to the project. The actual wind turbines
3 will be on private lands and the ancillary facilities
4 on BLM lands. The agreement is that we will go into a
5 joint EIS/EIR for this project.

6 Right now Bill and Brad Adams, the project
7 proponents, are going through some phases of their
8 project design, working with some of the County
9 agencies. There may be some design alterations, one
10 of which we understand from discussions. The actual
11 project would be placed on very steep terrain right
12 over in the Fingal's Finger area very close to
13 Windy Point in Snow Creek.

14 There is an issue that's been raised on the
15 steepness of the roads going up to each of the wind
16 turbine paths and the ability for emergency vehicles
17 to be able to negotiate those roads. So based on
18 that, we understand there is some redesign process
19 that's going on as far as their overall proposal
20 before they can actually submit a final project design
21 that we would move forward as their proposed action.

22 So from their standpoint the project is
23 still in the works, as far as them finalizing and
24 doing final refinements on their project design. At
25 some point they'll have that completed. They'll

1 submit the final project designs and the development
2 plans and then will initiate the process with the
3 County and start an environmental analysis on that
4 overall project.

5 MR. MORGAN: What's the timeline, John?
6 Do you have any idea?

7 MR. KALISH: We have not been told from
8 the Adams what their time are for that submission of
9 final plan of development.

10 MR. WATTENBARGER: Did the developers
11 pay for the studies that folks in the County are going
12 to do?

13 MR. KALISH: The project proponent under
14 our own right-of-way regulations, they do pay for
15 nearly all of the processing of their proposal on the
16 federal side, and it's a very similar process on the
17 county side also.

18 MR. WATTENBARGER: Because there was a
19 discussion last time about a joint -- I guess they
20 worked with Bob or these people or somebody from the
21 County as far as working together, BLM and the County.

22 MR. LYMAN: Joint EIS/EIR.

23 MR. KALISH: It is a joint EIS/EIR
24 process. We would develop an agreement with the
25 County. There would be provisions for the hiring of a

1 consulting firm, who would actually work on completing
2 the EIS/EIR document paid for by the project proponent
3 but working for the BLM on the federal side and the
4 County on the CEQA side.

5 MR. WATTENBARGER: Independent from the
6 developers' consultants, an independent consulting
7 company?

8 MR. KALISH: It would be an independent
9 company; that's correct.

10 MR. WATTENBARGER: Okay. There was also
11 a discussion about some deal that was made a long time
12 ago about no hillside wind turbines on that side of
13 I-10. What's the status of that?

14 MR. KALISH: Well, part of the actual
15 proposal that will be analyzed is an amendment to the
16 General Plan that would change that to allow for
17 development on those steep slopes that are south of
18 I-10. So there's a couple of actual plan
19 amendments -- General Plan amendments on the County
20 side that would be analyzed within the overall
21 EIS/EIR.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: And the County has
23 ultimate say-so on the approval process?

24 MR. LYMAN: Yeah. And one of the things
25 that's going forward under the new County process

1 is -- it's called GPIIP, and before anything ever goes
2 to a General Plan amendment, it has to be authorized
3 by the board of supervisors to go forward. So it's a
4 two-step process now.

5 MR. WEBER: Would this also come into
6 play, like some of the solar, where -- while this is
7 not necessarily -- it's not private land; right? A
8 two-percent fee or renewable energy kind of, for lack
9 of a better word, tax?

10 MR. LYMAN: As of today, that
11 unmitigable impact fee that's being proposed does not
12 include wind because we have a thing called
13 Wind-Energy Management Plan that they pay a
14 per-kilowatt charge.

15 MR. WEBER: Is that supposed to go into
16 a fund to mitigate impacts?

17 MR. WATTENBARGER: It's an ongoing fund?

18 MR. MORGAN: It's a County general fund,
19 actually.

20 MR. LYMAN: No. Wind does not go
21 through a general fund. Have you people heard about
22 the two percent? It's no longer two percent.

23 MR. WEBER: Yeah. Those were opposed.
24 I just think that whole thing should be explored as
25 well.

1 MR. LYMAN: There have been some
2 comments about that.

3 MR. WEBER: How big? Again these
4 turbines were ginormous, huge generators.

5 MR. KALISH: Over three-megawatt
6 machines.

7 MR. LYMAN: The big ones are 417 feet at
8 the top of the propellor.

9 MR. WEBER: So you're talking about the
10 same kind of generation capacity as a pretty good
11 sizeable piece of property for solar, either fixed
12 panel or concentrated, and I don't know. I think
13 that's something that needs to be also put into the
14 mix.

15 MR. MORGAN: When you look at these
16 wind-development projects, all else said, we've got
17 2,000 acres here, and we're only going to disturb 300
18 acres because there's only going to be one here, one
19 there. But as you know, it changes the whole --

20 MR. WEBER: Four hundred feet, 400 feet.

21 MR. MORGAN: -- changes the whole
22 situation.

23 MR. WEBER: The flight paths and whole
24 kit and caboodle. At some point it's enough.

25 MR. MORGAN: They're going to try a

1 per-acre mitigation fee or something like that. And
2 even though they're using 2,000 acres, they say,
3 "We're only using a small amount."

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Any other
5 questions?

6 Okay. Laurie, do you have an update for
7 us?

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: I've already given you
9 an update on the reorganization, and I've talked about
10 Santa Rosa facilities. The only other thing that I
11 want to just touch on is the fire and fuels situation
12 as we get into the Santa Anas. Maybe you don't
13 realize, but the Forest Service has a direct
14 protection area that includes Agua Caliente, as well,
15 but there's a lot of the Monument that's not really
16 very accessible for firefighters. And so we're very
17 fortunate to have Helicopter 535, which is the one
18 that's based out of Keenwild up in Idyllwild, that's
19 dedicated to the Monument.

20 And as you know -- or maybe you don't know
21 if you're down here, but over the past winter we had a
22 tremendous amount of rain and snowfall, and, of
23 course, that brings a grass crop. And so we really
24 expected we were going to have some major fires, and
25 we've been very fortunate that -- you know, initial

1 fires in the beginning of the spring and summer. And
2 so the only, you know, somewhat thing to note was the
3 palm fire on September 8th, which was 20 acres in
4 Agua Caliente. But it was on the flats, so that's
5 really good, and it was contained within 24 hours, and
6 we managed to save all the archaeological artifacts.
7 And the cultural resources was a major concern with
8 the tribe there. So we used a wet, rather than -- we
9 didn't have people going in there with hand crews
10 much. We just used water over the circumference, so
11 that was really successful as well.

12 Then you probably all know about the recent
13 thunderstorms that we've had, just hundreds and
14 hundreds of lightning strikes, but because we had rain
15 with it, again we were very fortunate. We know of
16 only one little fire. It was a log up in Santa Rosa,
17 and that got put out. It's still possible that
18 there's some holdover fires that we don't know about
19 from those but, as each day goes by, less and less
20 chance. So let's hope that things will continue
21 really quiet as we approach to the Santa Anas. And
22 that's my report.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Did you have any
24 update on the Corridor Management Plan?

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: Oh, thank you. I forgot

1 about that. We are in the final phase now of the
2 Corridor Management Plan. We've had all the public
3 comments. We've had how many meetings -- I don't
4 know -- five or so. And each one of those workshops
5 was done in three different places. It was done down
6 in Pinyon; it was done in Garner Valley; and it was
7 done up in Idyllwild. So we probably had, like, 12 or
8 15 meetings this past year already.

9 MS. WATLING: Then on the reservation
10 too.

11 MS. ROSENTHAL: Right, right. Instead
12 of going to Pinyon, they went to Santa Rosa
13 reservation. That was a really nice facility. And
14 we've had some really, really good comments. We could
15 have never done this in a vacuum, people that just
16 know this area so well. And so right now the team is
17 working on the actual document, and it should be --
18 the draft has come out, and right now we're just doing
19 some internal comment, and it will be coming out
20 before the next and final public meeting. There's
21 only one more public meeting, one set of public
22 meetings, and I'm thinking that they might make it one
23 public meeting, because this is where we're getting to
24 the point where they're going to be asking the
25 question, "Do you want to go to the next stage?" which

1 is to apply to become a National Scenic Byway.

2 This is the first step, doing the Corridor
3 Management Plan, and at that point it doesn't make
4 sense to have three different meetings, because what
5 if two of them say one way and then the other says the
6 other way? So at this point it makes sense to bring
7 everybody together and sit around the table and talk
8 about, well, do we want to do it? And if so, how are
9 we going to organize ourselves?

10 So you should be receiving, I would say, in
11 the next month or so, the draft, because I don't think
12 they want to have a meeting without you actually
13 reading it first. And you know, that's another thing,
14 that I would strongly encourage there to be
15 representation from the Monument Advisory Committee,
16 you know, because the Monument is a very important
17 part of this right now, the Scenic Highway that we
18 have.

19 So I think you're all on my mailing list.
20 Have you all been receiving e-mails about the various
21 meetings that happened this past year? Okay. Good.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: I think so.

23 MR. WATTENBARGER: I don't think I am,
24 but I'm a newbie, so --

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: Jim, if you could make

1 sure that everybody on the Advisory Committee is part
2 of the final e-mail, which will be the draft document,
3 and then let everybody know when the final meeting is.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Now, of course
5 any comments that come from us will be as individuals,
6 since we will not be able to meet as a committee
7 before your next meeting.

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: Any ideas, Jim, about
9 that?

10 MR. FOOTE: The only way around that
11 would be to convene another meeting of the Monument
12 Advisory Committee.

13 MR. WATTENBARGER: You've told us about
14 this before. I would have thought if we had any
15 comments, we would have told you by now.

16 MR. FOOTE: The only way the group could
17 make a recommendation as a group would be to convene
18 at another meeting, which requires the Federal
19 Register of publication and scheduling. That's the
20 only way, but otherwise you're right; as individuals,
21 everyone can comment.

22 MR. WATTENBARGER: I vote yes. The
23 helicopter in Idyllwild, where is that stationed or
24 whatever?

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: Where is Keenwild?

1 Well, as you go through Mountain Center if you're
2 coming from the desert, on the right-hand side you'll
3 see where on Highway 243 it will say "Keenwild Fire
4 Station," and then if you drive up to the top of that
5 hill, that's where the heli-base is.

6 MR. WATTENBARGER: Thanks for reminding
7 me. We were hiking up there on Labor Day, and, yes,
8 it rained a lot up at the top of the tram.

9 MS. ROSENTHAL: Of course, we need the
10 rain.

11 MR. WATTENBARGER: Yes, sir. Yes,
12 ma'am.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Thanks, Laurie.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: Anything else that I
15 forgot to report?

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: I don't think so.
17 It's all on here. Reports and updates on Monument and
18 non-Monument projects. Before we do that, we will
19 continue now with John's update for the BLM.

20 MR. KALISH: Yeah. Just a couple of
21 things that I think would be well worth reporting. At
22 the end of last week, Friday and Saturday, the Deputy
23 Secretary of Interior, David Hayes, came out for a
24 visit. We met him down in San Diego. And really the
25 whole purpose of his visit out here was to look at a

1 couple of areas that we manage down in San Diego
2 County, one being Hauser Mountain, which is designated
3 as a wilderness study area, located very close to the
4 town of Campo right on the border. In fact, if you've
5 ever been down to where the Pacific Crest Trail
6 originates down on the U.S./Mexican border, if you
7 were to leave that trailhead and start north on your
8 journey up to Canada, you would go through some flats
9 on the edge of a little community of Campo across a
10 highway, and then the very first mountain that you
11 would start to climb is Hauser Mountain.

12 It's quite a relic area. In fact it's
13 dominated by chaparral, which is one area that there
14 has not been a history of wildland fire on that
15 mountain. It's very important ecologically and very
16 rich in historic and cultural resources and excellent
17 views and presents some real back-country and
18 wilderness types of outdoor recreation opportunities.

19 The other area that the deputy secretary
20 was focused in on is Beauty Mountain, which is located
21 right south of Anza. In 2009 Congresswoman Bono Mack,
22 through her own legislation, got the north half of
23 Beauty Mountain designated as wilderness, which really
24 encompassed all of the BLM lands north of the
25 San Diego-Riverside County line, lands within her own

1 district. The south half of Beauty Mountain down in
2 San Diego County is in Congressman Issa's office.

3 The one issue that still had to be resolved
4 involving the land south of the county line is that
5 there were quite a few interspersed private lands
6 within that area that really would have made managing
7 that area as wilderness very difficult. But due to
8 some incredible efforts by some planned conservancies
9 and the conservation funds and our old state director
10 Ed Hastey, who continues to work very diligently in
11 acquiring some legally incredible wildlands, they were
12 able to block up essentially the entire south half of
13 Beauty Mountain within San Diego County.

14 Congressman Issa went through a process of
15 working with all the local constituencies to resolve
16 any of the issues that had been raised about a
17 potential designation of that area and has introduced
18 a bill to designate the south half of Beauty Mountain
19 as wilderness which, when combined with the north
20 half, would result in a little over 29,000-acre
21 wilderness area, just an incredible, very diverse,
22 very unique area.

23 Also from a diversity standpoint, it has
24 lots of chaparral, coastal sage scrub. It gets up
25 into some areas where there's Coulter pine trees.

1 There's riparian and aquatic habitats, just overall
2 just an incredible area that offers many opportunities
3 for wilderness-type recreation.

4 So the deputy secretary was really looking
5 at those two areas. But the overall message in all of
6 this is that there's really a bigger picture to this
7 in that these few areas are being looked at as
8 potentially component parts of a much larger
9 California wilderness legislative effort to look at
10 other potential wilderness designations throughout
11 California as well as a potential designation for the
12 San Jacinto National Monument, which would pretty much
13 butt up against the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto
14 Mountains National Monument, of course, a very
15 exciting proposition if that were to go through.

16 So some of these overall efforts are now in
17 the works for this upcoming year to look at other
18 potential areas, very high-value areas, some of the
19 last gems within the State of California for either
20 wilderness or National Monument level protection. So
21 that was a very encouraging few days and really a
22 great meeting with the deputy secretary to see that
23 there's that level of support from high up in the
24 Department of Interior for that level of overall
25 protective designations.

1 And the last thing is that Jim had
2 mentioned our South Coast Resource Management Plan
3 revision that is going to hit the streets actually
4 this week. The Notice of Availability for the Draft
5 Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management
6 Plan Revision will be published in the Federal
7 Register on Friday, and we're in the process of
8 mailing copies out.

9 The South Coast RMP encompasses about
10 130,000 acres of lands within Western Riverside
11 County, a few lands over in Los Angeles County and
12 additional BLM lands and in San Diego County,
13 including Beauty Mountain, Hauser, Otay Mountain,
14 Tecate Peak and some other real gems located down
15 within that area.

16 One of the real purposes of our Land Use
17 Plan Revision is to just in recognizing the real
18 values of the remnant lands that are still under BLM
19 management. In those areas we see a real need to
20 bring our management into consistency with habitat
21 conservation planning efforts that are going on in
22 western Riverside County and especially down in
23 San Diego County, with two plans down there.

24 But if you look at the overall challenges
25 of managing those lands, we have some of the most

1 sensitive lands, the most T and E species, habitat
2 areas at least within the BLM system, but those lands
3 are in very close proximity to millions of people. So
4 we're dealing with those challenges of managing
5 extremely sensitive resources in proximity to lots of
6 people and subsequently a lot of demands that are
7 being placed on those lands. And so we hope to really
8 address all of those issues within that land use plan.

9 So spread the word, and the plan will be
10 out for 90 days for a public comment period. And
11 we're hoping to have a lot of involvement from the
12 public and really addressing all of those issues down
13 in that area. So keep an eye out for that plan. And
14 that's about it.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Thanks, John.
16 Any questions? Jim, do you have anything else?

17 MR. FOOTE: Yeah. Just a few things.
18 Our park ranger Emily Horner is receiving the Silver
19 Award For Excellence in Interpretation by the National
20 Association of Interpreters. She'll be receiving that
21 award at the annual NAI conference in Twin Cities in
22 this coming November. So congratulations to Emily on
23 the Silver Award.

24 For those that recall, a number of years
25 ago an interpretive specialist, Tracy Albrecht, won

1 the Gold Award. So as a National Monument we've done
2 very well in the interpretive side in receiving awards
3 and deservedly so.

4 In fact just this last week Emily, who is a
5 certified trainer for interpretation, trained a number
6 of folks, including staff for the National Monument
7 and volunteers as certified interpretive guides, a
8 program sponsored by the National Interpreters
9 Association. So that's another big plus for us is
10 that, as we get further down the road here, more and
11 more of our staff and volunteers are qualified to
12 offer high-level interpretive programs for the public.

13 Also for those that noticed -- in fact my
14 last trip up the hill on Highway 74 -- that Caltrans
15 has installed the center line rumble strip. That's
16 been a long time coming, certainly in demand from the
17 Pinyon Community and others, very desirable. And I
18 didn't know what it would look like.

19 MS. WATLING: I didn't either.

20 MR. FOOTE: It's certainly noticeable.
21 You don't notice until you drive over it.

22 MR. MORGAN: You shouldn't drive over
23 it.

24 MR. FOOTE: I tried it. Yes, I gave it
25 a whirl. It does wake you up, and its intent is to

1 keep people from veering across into the oncoming
2 traffic.

3 MR. MORGAN: Which they do every week.

4 MR. FOOTE: Yeah, they do it constantly,
5 but this is a step in the right direction. And thanks
6 to Caltrans for their work on that.

7 MS. WATLING: And the guardrail.

8 MR. FOOTE: And the guardrail, the
9 additional guardrail. Caltrans has been stepping up
10 to the plate despite the State's economic woes.
11 They've been doing a good job up there.

12 Before I forget, I certainly want to thank
13 Diane Mann, our court reporter here, for the Monument
14 Advisory Committee here. She's been here a number of
15 occasions and somehow manages to get through all the
16 noise and racket here and hear what we're saying and
17 make something intelligible out of it.

18 THE REPORTER: This is new.

19 MR. FOOTE: And this is a new thing with
20 the cricket sound. Haven't had that before. A new
21 challenge.

22 MR. WEBER: Deferred maintenance.

23 MR. FOOTE: That's right. And just
24 before I forget here, our next scheduled meeting is
25 going to be the first Monday in March, which would be

1 March 5th. So right now we'll be looking forward to
2 that date. And of course I'll keep updating everyone
3 in e-mail. As that approaches and we move this
4 process along with our assessment, then we would have
5 to have a report at least on the status of where we
6 are right now. And that's it for me.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Okay. As long as
8 we're giving thanks, I think it's appropriate to thank
9 Al Muth for his past contributions to this committee.
10 So on behalf of the current and the past Monument
11 Advisory Committee, thank you, Al.

12 MR. MUTH: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Are there any
15 other comments from committee members?

16 MR. MUTH: Is this the last item in the
17 agenda packet, the Imperial Dam Bus Tour? Let me beat
18 you to it, Jim. If you've not been on that tour, it
19 is well worth getting there at 6:30 a.m. It will take
20 the full day, but it's just a great tour. It's well
21 worth it.

22 MS. WATLING: I second that.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Yeah. I've done
24 that too.

25 MR. LYMAN: It's a good tour.

1 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Al. I forgot to
2 get to the last part of the attachments. Yes, the
3 Imperial Dam Bus Tour, again, sponsored by Friends of
4 the Desert Mountains, so proceeds go back to support
5 the National Monument. So aside from it being an
6 educational tour, it also supports our National
7 Monument.

8 Also at the packet at the end is the
9 2011-2012 calendar of events. This was developed back
10 in the May-June timeframe in order to make some of the
11 publications like the annual edition of "Palm Springs
12 Life" in which they publish all the upcoming events.
13 That's in the September issue, and so we had to meet
14 that deadline. But is typical as the year goes on, we
15 will amend this. We will add additional programs as
16 time goes on. This is a snapshot from what we knew
17 back a few months ago what we are going to cover over
18 the course of the next year.

19 There is also a little flyer on the Sixth
20 Annual Garden Community Desert Day sponsored by City
21 of Palm Desert. We have typically had a table at the
22 event. Certainly encourage you to go to that.

23 One last item -- and I have a reprint if
24 you want to look at this. The current issue of "Palm
25 Springs Life," the September issue -- this is the one

1 that's bound and placed in the hotel rooms -- really
2 speaks to what Ed Hastey called the string of pearls,
3 and it's the special areas that surround the
4 Coachella Valley, being the National Monument,
5 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Coachella Valley
6 Preserve, Mecca Hills Wilderness, the Maricopa
7 Mountains Wilderness, Joshua Tree National Park,
8 Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.

9 And of course what we may end up with is
10 the Sands to Snow National Monument. And again
11 Ed Hastey referred to this years ago as the string of
12 pearls surrounding the Coachella Valley. And Ed has
13 some comments in here. But this is a pictorial of all
14 those areas. That's in the current issue of "Palm
15 Springs Life." I certainly encourage you to pick up a
16 copy. If you want to look at the article, you can
17 feel free to look at this after the meeting as well.
18 So there's a real good partnership, again, with
19 "Palm Springs Life."

20 We, of course, concluded our tenth
21 anniversary for the National Monument. We had eight
22 issues of "Palm Springs Life" with articles that
23 focused on the National Monument or some of the
24 surrounding areas, and that was photography by
25 Tom Brewster, and the article was written by

1 Ann Japenga, quite a partnership, and concluding with
2 the Tom Brewster Photography Show at the Michael Lord
3 Gallery featuring all of the photography of the
4 National Monument. So a very successful year for the
5 tenth anniversary and the number of programs we did
6 that focused on that.

7 So now we look forward to the next time we
8 do this, which I guess would be 2020, if we have a
9 20th anniversary. So plan. Get ready for that. And
10 that's it for me now.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Are you sure?

12 MR. FOOTE: Yes. I think I'm sure.

13 Thanks, Bob.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCKMAN: Anybody else? If
15 not, we are adjourned.

16 (The proceedings were concluded at 5:39 p.m.)

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

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

Dated this 20th day of October, 2011, at Chino, California.

DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008