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SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
National Monument
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, September 8, 2007
9:00 a.m. to 11:23 p.m.

REPORTED BY: DENISE J. CURTIS, CSR
CSR NO. 9319

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

GARY WATTS: California State Department Parks & Recreation

JEFF MORGAN: Sierra Club

BOB BROCKMAN: City of Rancho Mirage

BOB LYMAN: Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside

ALLAN MUTH: Academic Research and Natural Science, UCR, Deep Canyon Desert Research Center

STAFF:

Laurie Rosenthal: National Monument Board of Directors, San Jacinto District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service

DAWN WELLMAN: Pinyon Community Council

BLM STAFF:

JIM FOOTE: Designated Federal Official; Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager

CINDY FINERTY: City of Palm Desert

JOHN KALISH: Palm Springs Field Manager

STEVE BORCHARD: California Desert District Manager

RUTH WATLING: Opinion Community Council

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I N D E X

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Adjourn	

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PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007

3

9:16 A.M.

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6

CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Call the meeting to order.

7

First order of business is roll call. Our distinguished DFO, James Foote, call the roll, please.

9

MR. FOOTE: Thanks, Allan.

10

11

Before we get started, I would just like to introduce Denise Curtis, who is our new court reporter.

12

Her first time with the Monument Advisory Committee. And

13

also, thanks to Bob and the County for allowing us the use

14

of this new facility. Very nice. Thank you.

15

Roll call.

16

Bob Brockman?

17

MR. BROCKMAN: Here.

18

MR. FOOTE: Buford Crites? Absent.

19

Barbara Gonzales-Lyons? Absent.

20

Bill Havert? Absent.

21

Terry Henderson? Absent.

22

Bob Lyman?

23

MR. LYMAN: Here.

24

MR. FOOTE: Paul Marchand? Absent.

25

Jeff Morgan?

1 MR. MORGAN: Here.

2 MR. FOOTE: Allan Muth?

3 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Here.

4 MR. FOOTE: Gary Watts?

5 MR. WATTS: Here.

6 MR. FOOTE: Dawn Wellman?

7 MS. WELLMAN: Here.

8 MR. FOOTE: And I would also like to acknowledge
9 that Cindy Finnerty, sitting in for Buford Crites, although
10 not official, is representing the City of Palm Desert.

11 And also at the table from the Monument's Board of
12 Directors, we have Steve Borchard, the California Desert
13 District Manager; Laurie Rosenthal, the San Jacinto
14 District Ranger; and John Kalish, the Palm Springs Field
15 Manager.

16 Also, for the record, we have another attendee,
17 Ruth Watling, who is representing the Pinyon Committee
18 Council, though Ruth, as with Cindy, is not an official
19 member of the MAC.

20 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: We have but one action item
21 today and that would be approval of the MAC meeting minutes
22 for June 2nd of '07.

23 Are there any additions or corrections to the
24 minutes?

25 Then without objection, the minutes are approved.

1 MR. FOOTE: Okay. We are going to roll through
2 the Reports and Updates, hopefully, fairly expeditiously.

3 The first item is Election of Advisory Committee
4 Chair and Vice-Chair.

5 If you recall last year, the election occurred at
6 the September meeting. Terry Henderson requested that we
7 delay that until December, which I think turns out to be a
8 good thing at this point since we don't have a quorum and
9 we could not complete the election anyway. So we will
10 defer the election of Advisory Committee Chair and
11 Vice-Chair until the December 1st meeting.

12 Update on the Request to Riverside County to
13 accept the easement for public access to Martinez Canyon.

14 In your packet of information, you will find a
15 couple of items. One is a letter to Roy Wilson with the
16 Board of Supervisors, County of Riverside, regarding that
17 action item by the Monument Advisory Committee at the last
18 meeting to, in fact, request the County to accept that
19 easement.

20 As we went through the process, we discovered that
21 the easement had, in fact, been accepted in 1959. You have
22 that document in your packet, so I think Buford, perhaps,
23 was given some misinformation suggesting that that had not
24 occurred, but, in fact, it has. And our thanks to the
25 County for following up on that and providing us with the

1 information.

2 Any questions on the Martinez Canyon access issue?

3 There being none, we will move on to the next
4 item, which is the update of the Vista Point redevelopment.
5 And this regards the issues of safety/trash and graffiti
6 control.

7 As you recall from the last Monument Advisory
8 Committee meeting, the Monument Advisory Committee
9 recommended that we contact CalTrans to cease operations
10 until such time that those safety issues and trash and
11 liter and graffiti control could be addressed.

12 In your packet is a letter sent from the
13 Advisory Committee Chair to Michael Perovich, the Director
14 of District 8 for CalTrans, expressing the Monument
15 Advisory Committee's concerns relative to the Vista Point
16 redevelopment.

17 Consequent to that action, we did sit down with
18 Patty Romo, who is the Deputy District Director for
19 CalTrans, and she did provide information and suggested, or
20 more than suggested, she committed to completing certain
21 issues or improvements along with the Vista Point
22 redevelopment project that would contribute to safety. And
23 let me go through those and then we will follow-up about
24 the trash and graffiti issue.

25 As you recall, on June 15th, I did send an e-mail

1 to the Monument Advisory Committee, that is also in the
2 packet, outlining the steps that CalTrans will take to
3 review those. They are putting some distance indicators,
4 and those have already been installed, indicating at this
5 point it is "500 feet ahead." In fact, the ones that were
6 up there prior to this point just indicated Vista Point was
7 somewhere out there, but you had no idea if you were
8 actually at that point or if it was coming up, particularly
9 on the northbound lane, because at the point where the
10 Vista Point sign was, you could not see the pullout.

11 So the "500 feet ahead" signs have been installed.
12 They will put speed limit signs on the northbound side of
13 Vista Point to reflect the 35 mile an hour speed.
14 Currently, there is one on the southbound as you are
15 approaching Vista Point from downhill. There was no such
16 sign on the uphill side. So that sign will also be placed.

17 CalTrans will place flashing beacons on both
18 "35 mile an hour" signs to warn folks that there is a
19 dangerous situation ahead.

20 And in addition, CalTrans indicated they would
21 place a "watch for stopped car" signs as you approach
22 Vista Point from both sides.

23 They did or Patty did indicate that no sooner than
24 18 months from now, they would be looking at and installing
25 or looking at installation of a left-turn pocket for the

1 uphill traffic. So we know that is a fairly major project
2 given the topography of that sight. So we did get a
3 commitment that they will be addressing that in the future.
4 Again, but no sooner than 18 months from now.

5 Relative to trash and graffiti removal, I
6 subsequently met on June 28 with Paul Glass, who is the
7 Adopt-A-Highway coordinator for CalTrans, as well as
8 Dan Beckett, the Indio Functional Supervisor for CalTrans,
9 to discuss the trash and graffiti removal issue.

10 We are going to try to stay ahead of this. We are
11 working to hire on additional help. We have a Forest
12 Service Recreation Technician position coming on board.
13 Part of that position's requirements will be to regularly
14 stop at Vista Point to address graffiti and trash issues,
15 trying to stay on top of this. We will go through the
16 Adopt-A-Highway program to get materials from CalTrans to
17 deal with this issue.

18 So in addition, I should mention to the degree we
19 can, we will try to involve volunteers working through
20 Friends of the Desert Mountains on that, too.

21 One of the issues we can't deal with is trash
22 pickup along the highway itself on a volunteer basis
23 because of the dangerous nature of the highway. There are
24 no shoulders. So we know we can't put people in that kind
25 of position to where their lives would be in danger to

1 vehicles.

2 So I think we are getting said as best we can to
3 deal with that issue once the construction is completed.
4 As I understand, I haven't seen it yet, but I understand
5 Vista Point is closed at this point for construction to
6 continue. It was originally anticipated to be a 60- to
7 90-day project. I don't know what the completion date will
8 be, but I would anticipate sometime in October, perhaps.

9 Any questions on the Vista Point issue?

10 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: You are ahead of schedule,
11 James.

12 MR. FOOTE: Come on, questions, please?

13 MS. WELLMAN: Did you ever get brass signs?

14 MR. FOOTE: Yes. In fact, also in your packet,
15 you will find what I distributed at the last MAC meeting,
16 and that is a diagram or layout of the project. And this
17 only came to my attention within a day or two of the last
18 Monument Advisory Committee meeting. And that was prompted
19 by a call from CalTrans that same week asking the
20 whereabouts of that brass sign.

21 So I delivered that to CalTrans. CalTrans has it.
22 They intend to install it at Vista Point at this time as
23 part of this project. So we will see that Highway 74 sign
24 there.

25 MS. WELLMAN: And what does it say?

1 MR. FOOTE: It speaks about safety and the
2 enjoyment of the area. I can't remember the words at this
3 point. It's three foot by three foot in size. It's very
4 large. I think the intent is to install it into a bolder
5 site.

6 And if you look at that diagram, the location
7 would be in the little pull-off on the northwest side
8 there. There is a little walkway with some gaveled area.
9 It looks like some bolders in the middle. That will be the
10 location for this sign. So in other words, in the back
11 parking area.

12 MS. WELLMAN: And I am curious, is there any sort
13 of interpretive sign there other than safety?

14 MR. FOOTE: The only two signs at this point will
15 be the brass sign and on the next page, it shows the
16 entrance sign, which is the Coachella Valley Vista Point
17 sign. We are intentionally holding off on putting
18 additional signs there because the site in the past has
19 been very heavily vandalized, a lot of graffiti.

20 We are looking to see how well the facilities here
21 will weather. If they are heavily vandalized, then we
22 probably need to be very cautious about adding new signs.
23 My philosophy is one that no sign is better than a
24 vandalized sign. It gives a poor image if we can't
25 maintain it and keep it looking good.

1 So we want to give this a little time to see how
2 the site withstands whatever use it gets up there and then
3 talk about interpretive signs and what we need for the
4 monument, if, in fact, it looks like those can be
5 maintained.

6 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Jim, what is this sign
7 "monument" up here in the center in the east corner?

8 MR. FOOTE: That's the one on the second page.
9 That's the entrance sign.

10 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: It is?

11 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

12 They refer to "Sign Monument" and that's the
13 one on the second page that states "Coachella Valley Vista
14 Point."

15 MR. MORGAN: CalTrans works in mysterious ways.

16 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: You know, you would think they
17 would put a sign where people could see it. Foolish me.

18 MR. FOOTE: There you go.

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Any further questions,
20 discussion on the Vista Point issue?

21 MR. FOOTE: I should -- since we are running ahead
22 of schedule, I went right by a couple of items in the
23 packets I did have in order and I neglected to address
24 these right off the bat.

25 There is a letter to the City of Palm Desert, City

1 Manager Carlos Ortega, thanking the City for use of the
2 conference room over these years. That's in your packet.
3 That was sent on June 20 from the Chair.

4 Also, there is a couple of fliers describing what
5 our fall programs are in the National Monument and a
6 particular flier about tonight's program at the top of
7 the tram. It's a Campfire program at 7:00 tonight,
8 Round Valley Campground. Again, that is going on tonight.

9 And the last item was the Federal Register Notice,
10 which is a revised notice reflecting the change of meeting
11 location. It also shows the dates.

12 MR. BROCKMAN: Jim -- Bob Brockman, City of
13 Rancho Mirage -- didn't we discuss having a meeting in
14 Idyllwild?

15 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Yes.

16 MR. FOOTE: Yes, we did.

17 MR. BROCKMAN: And is that to be reflected in a
18 revised notice at some other time?

19 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

20 When we decide exactly where the meeting will
21 occur and on what date, we will, once again, publish.
22 Coincident with publication of the Federal Register Notice,
23 we put out a news release; however, it is seldom that any
24 of the local newspapers see fit to publish that.

25 MR. BROCKMAN: As I recall, we were tentatively

1 looking at March.

2 MR. MORGAN: No. June. It's too cold in March.

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: You might want to consider --

4 MR. FOOTE: And that was the one I think Jeff was
5 referencing, that potential for a June meeting. And the
6 window is really going to be June or September.

7 MR. MORGAN: Or September.

8 MR. FOOTE: Yes, one of the two. The other months
9 are a little too risky in terms of the weather. So we will
10 plan on that. We have some time to do that and we will
11 make sure everyone is notified of that.

12 MR. MORGAN: I think it was to be determined when
13 a suitable location could be found when the weather is
14 decent. So we have pretty much the right timing with June,
15 so we just need to find a location.

16 MR. FOOTE: Correct. We will be working on that.

17 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Update.

18 MR. FOOTE: Update on the Monument Advisory
19 Committee nominations and appointments.

20 It was just this last week I learned that both of
21 the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture have, in fact,
22 signed the last packet of nomination letters. We haven't
23 received those yet. They are on route. Hopefully, we will
24 receive those this next week.

25 I did put in your packets something that I think

1 is a little illuminating here about time frame to get
2 through this process. And you can see that it takes
3 roughly a year from the time that we first draft the
4 Register Notice to open the call for nominations to the
5 time when the appointments actually occur.

6 And I did this by stepping back and looking at the
7 requirements that I have been told about each step that is
8 going to take this long. And you can see by the time frame
9 here on this sheet, working backwards, day 368 is the
10 appointment day, but that's when we submit the Register
11 Notice. It is 360 days out from final approval. That's a
12 long time. And I think it's, perhaps, that is a little
13 more than I had anticipated.

14 The good news is knowing this, the next batch of
15 nominations or next batch of appointments expiring occur in
16 December of '08, meaning, come December of this year, we
17 will get that notice going.

18 However, stepping back from that, as you know, we
19 have had a number of resignations on the Monument Advisory
20 Committee before the expiration terms. We have also been
21 trying to get over the hurdle of getting alternates
22 appointed.

23 From what I can determine, this idea of having
24 alternates is a little bit new in terms of how to deal with
25 the Federal Advisory Committees in the Washington office,

1 that this is not something that appears to be a common
2 place and it appears as if it has never happened. So there
3 have been a few hurdles to overcome as a result of that.

4 So when we go out with this next package or call
5 for nominations, we will not only be seeking the positions
6 for which people have resigned, we will be seeking the
7 balance of alternates for all positions. Some of those
8 will be three-year terms, some of those will be a year
9 term. We are going to run the alternates concurrent with
10 the primary representatives' terms.

11 So this first time out, there is going to be a
12 little bit of a difference in terms of how long each will
13 serve. And again, that is dependent on the term of the
14 primary because we do want to make these concurrent.
15 Particularly in the instance if a primary were to resign or
16 decide they did not want to continue and the alternate did,
17 they can simply start to step into that position. We don't
18 have this unusual time differential to deal with.

19 So that's about it for the Advisory Committee
20 appointments.

21 Any questions on those?

22 MR. BROCKMAN: Jim, where do we stand now in terms
23 of vacancies still unfilled in both the primary and the
24 alternate positions?

25 MR. FOOTE: Let me go back to my list. Here we

1 go.

2 We are expecting that in the current package,
3 Sharon Aprobaum (phonetic spelling) will have been
4 appointed for City of Palm Springs. That should be in
5 the packet we will receive, hopefully, next week.

6 Those that are currently on the MAC that are up
7 for reappointment, those would all continue. So the
8 vacancies for primaries that will go out for an
9 announcement are the City of Indian Wells, the Winter Park
10 Authority, the Building Industry or Development and I think
11 that's it for the primaries. Everyone else will be filled.

12 So those are three positions that we will look to
13 fill. And then based on this packet, we will actually get
14 one alternate. The only alternate that will be viable
15 through the process we are currently in is the alternate
16 for the City of La Quinta, Ruth Reinhold (phonetic
17 spelling).

18 Eddie Riacha (phonetic spelling) is moving on.
19 Even though he will be in the packet as being approved, by
20 the time he gets his appointment letter, he's gone, which
21 is unfortunate. And the conservation position we had for
22 an alternate ran into some other issues, and so that won't
23 occur.

24 So, essentially, we will be seeking 14 alternates
25 in this next batch, 14 alternates and 3 primaries. And

1 this is prior to our starting the notice for the 5 that
2 will expire in '08. So this will be a notice that precedes
3 that.

4 So we have got some homework to do to try to
5 encourage some folks to attend. I am anticipating, looking
6 at the schedule here, once I know the dates of
7 appointments, then I am hoping next week I can start the
8 process of moving that notice out.

9 So if you look, again, you will see that there is
10 about a 14-day review of that notice at the State office,
11 an 8-week review of that notice at the Washington office
12 prior to publication, so we are looking at about 10 weeks
13 before that opening would even occur or be published in
14 the February Register. That would be from about now, about
15 10 weeks.

16 And then we have a 90-day open period. We get the
17 applications, we process the applications, move them
18 forward. And as experience has shown, it takes about six
19 months for it to move through the process to both
20 secretaries for signature.

21 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Discussion? Comments?
22 Questions? Amazement?

23 Continue, sir.

24 MR. MORGAN: Are we ever going to be at the point
25 where we don't have enough people appointed so that we will

1 have a quorum?

2 MR. FOOTE: We'll always have enough people
3 appointed that we have a quorum. It's a matter of do we
4 have enough attendants to have a quorum. That's the issue.

5 Relative to the charter, as you all probably know,
6 that the charter expires tommorrow. So our timing of
7 today's meeting is good.

8 I learned this week that the -- as you know, we
9 moved the charter up through the process months ago. It is
10 now in the BLM Director's office, which if you understand
11 the process, it means it still needs to go through the
12 departmental side of the Interior and Agriculture.

13 And this is the key revision that we have been
14 looking for. This revised charter will give us the
15 authority to appoint alternates. We have to have that in
16 the charter or we cannot have alternates.

17 Again, this has run into a few obstacles along the
18 way and we have managed to overcome those so far. So it's
19 gone by Solicitor's review at this point in the Director's
20 office. So we hope this can keep on moving forward.

21 As you recall, we have a little change from the
22 previous charter. Before it was a single document. We
23 have broken that charter into two separate documents; one,
24 a charter, which is a shorter document, and a set of
25 bylaws. As it's moved up through the Solicitor's office,

1 recommendations were to move one or two items from the
2 charter to the bylaws and making the charter even shorter.

3 The bylaws become something that this
4 organization, this group, controls. The charter, of
5 course, once approved, it is approved by the secretaries
6 and it is what it is for the next two years until we revise
7 it again.

8 So we are hopeful that this will make it all the
9 way through and give us the ability to, in fact, appoint
10 alternates. That's one of the key things. As we know, for
11 attendance issues, we need to have alternates.

12 We have ensured that even if we go out with a call
13 for nominations, we don't have the charter in place yet, as
14 long as the charter is in place by the time the
15 appointments occur, we are okay. We can still go out for a
16 call for those nominations without the charter revised.

17 More amazement?

18 MR. MORGAN: What is the estimated time then for
19 this charter to be signed and sealed and approved?

20 MR. FOOTE: I don't have an estimate on that. I
21 am hoping it can move quickly from the Director's office
22 into the Department's side, and hopefully, get it done
23 there.

24 I am sure a lot of the detailed look occurs at the
25 agency level, so all the sire names have been put on there.

1 It's moved on up through -- hopefully, it won't take too
2 much longer.

3 I think we will emphasize the need for quick
4 action on this because we are now as of tomorrow a
5 nonentity.

6 MR. MORGAN: We are charterless.

7 MR. FOOTE: We are charterless as a Monument
8 Advisory Committee. So I think due diligence is in order
9 and we need to move this through quickly and remind folks
10 of that circumstance; otherwise, if this were to take four
11 months, we have no December meeting, we would be a
12 charterless group. We would not exist.

13 So you can expect an update as time goes on and
14 where we stand on this and when that happens, hopefully,
15 sooner than later.

16 MR. BROCKMAN: Why is the charter only valid for a
17 limited period of time, what's the theory on that?

18 MR. FOOTE: As I recall, it's actually a
19 requirement that the charter be done every two years. It's
20 not a decision of this Committee that the charter be done
21 every two years. This is, I believe, a policy issue. I
22 will check into that to make sure, but it's not the
23 decision of this group for the two-year term for that. But
24 I will follow up on that and make sure that that's the
25 case.

1 And if it's not the case, if, in fact, this group
2 has latitude to propose a charter that, in fact, would
3 extend for twice that period or whatever, that, to me,
4 would make a lot of sense.

5 MR. BROCKMAN: I guess the basis of my question
6 is, is the purpose behind having the Committee and the
7 charter authorizing the Committee intended to imply that at
8 some point in time, our work is done?

9 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Well, initially, I think it was
10 for three years or until the plan was finished and then it
11 was extended for two more years.

12 Am I correct, Jim?

13 MR. FOOTE: If you read the establishing
14 legislation for the monument, which contains the language
15 about the Monument Advisory Committee being established, it
16 references for planned development and implementation,
17 which when you speak about implementation, to me, that has
18 no point. We are going to continually and always be
19 implementing the plan, therefore, there is no sunset date
20 on the Advisory Committee.

21 So we will keep on going as long as we are here
22 and have a plan to implement, which will be always.

23 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Further comment? Discussion?

24 Hard to keep a straight face through some of this,
25 Jim. Moving on.

1 MR. FOOTE: I have perfected that.

2 The next item is Service First agreement between
3 BLM and U.S. Forest Service. I have been reporting on this
4 as we have been going along. You now have an approved
5 Service First agreement. As you know, there is a National
6 Service First agreement between BLM and Forest Service,
7 National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

8 Locally, we have developed a Service First
9 agreement of interest to this group specifically for the
10 National Monument between BLM and Forest Service. And this
11 really establishes the manner in which we will operate, how
12 we will cooperate together.

13 And one of the key features of that is the due
14 delegation of authority to, hopefully, streamline and make
15 more efficient the way we address personnel. It allows a
16 BLM employee or supervisor to be the Supervisor of Record
17 for a Forest Service employee and vice versa.

18 The idea of this, of course, is to make management
19 more effective. We, hopefully, can then also be more
20 efficient in the way we operate together. So we are
21 looking forward to that.

22 Right out of the -- that will take effect on
23 October 1st. So we do have a process ongoing now to hire a
24 recreation technician that will be a Forest Service
25 employee for the monument, however, supervised by BLM.

1 We also are in the process of hiring a recreation
2 planner that is not part of the monument T.O., but will be
3 doing considerable monument duties. That we finished the
4 interviewing for and we hope to have in place in a couple
5 months.

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: Can you explain the term "T.O."?

7 MR. FOOTE: Oh, I am sorry. Table of
8 Organization. The Table of Organization identifies those
9 positions which fall under a certain umbrella of
10 supervision. At the top of that is Steve Borchard for the
11 Desert District. He's one of the members of our Board of
12 Directors. And Jeanne Wade-Evans, who is the Supervisor
13 for the San Bernardino National Forest.

14 And then also as members of the board, of course,
15 are Laurie Rosenthal and John Kalish. So those are the top
16 of the Table of Organization, if you will, for the
17 monument. And then under that falls the Monument Manager
18 and the other positions as well. And those are occupied by
19 both BLM and Forest Service.

20 So this gives us the ability to better work
21 together, particularly in the supervisory line.
22 Communication will improve, as well. So we are excited
23 that this is occurring and we are moving forward.

24 MR. KALISH: And Jim -- I am John Kalish, the
25 Recreation Planner position, although as Jim said is not on

1 the monument staff, it will be dedicated to monument work.
2 And it really is the position that Jim Foote was in prior
3 to moving into the Monument Manager position.

4 But we fully anticipate that that position will be
5 dedicated to monument work. So we are looking forward -- I
6 understand the list that Jim is working through is very
7 good and there is more than a couple of fine, qualified
8 candidates.

9 As soon as we can get that position filled, the
10 better. And it will sure help Jim out a lot. Take a few
11 things off of his plate.

12 MR. MORGAN: That will be a permanent position;
13 correct?

14 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

15 MR. KALISH: Permanent and full-time.

16 MR. FOOTE: You will have a new face to talk to,
17 Jeff. You will have to break a new person in.

18 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Discussion? Comments?

19 Move on.

20 MR. FOOTE: Okay. How is our time?

21 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Way ahead.

22 MR. FOOTE: Way ahead.

23 MR. MORGAN: Eight minutes before ten.

24 MR. FOOTE: Okay. One of the key elements of
25 today's meeting is the new start for preparation of

1 monument business plan. And perhaps the best way to get
2 into this is to reflect on the effort first that we started
3 a few years ago and say we are not going to do that again,
4 we are not going to approach it in that manner again.

5 The intent of a business plan is largely for
6 marketing purposes. It really succinctly defines what we
7 are, where we are going on a program basis, the kind of
8 programs we intend to do, what the cost of that is, what
9 our shortfalls are and how we intend to overcome those
10 shortfalls. And those are funding shortfalls.

11 Really, that's kind of it in a nutshell. We want
12 to use this document to take to partners, allow our
13 partners to move forward. For instance, Friends of the
14 Desert Mountains as a primary nonprofit support
15 organization for the monument can use this to approach
16 donors, corporations, what have you, to say this is the
17 vision of the National Monument, the programs, we need
18 additional funding, here's what your funding or
19 contribution will get you.

20 I think a real succinctly put in -- if you look in
21 your packet, the San Bernardino National Forest business
22 plan, which I think is an excellent example of how these
23 are laid out. I think there is a title under here a Window
24 of Opportunity and that really is what we are talking about
25 here. This is an opportunity for others to be engaged in

1 helping the monument achieve what it should be achieving
2 and identifies ways to do that.

3 I also gave you a sheet here which really outlines
4 some common elements of business plans. I have looked
5 through a few to date from Park Service, from Forest
6 Service, and they kind of have the same types of elements
7 in them.

8 They generally have the introduction, overview and
9 vision. They look at an analysis of operations by program,
10 whether you have Management and Administration, Resource
11 Management, Facility Operations and Maintenance, Visitor
12 Experience and Enjoyment.

13 Each one of those they identify, well, what is the
14 funding requirement here, how much funding do we have
15 available and what's our shortfall. And then they have a
16 Summary Financial Statement and what are the strategies to
17 increase the revenue, to reduce costs or to utilize
18 volunteers to accomplish those programs.

19 That other sheet I passed out, which has some
20 diagrams and that, these are actually cut out from a
21 variety of business plans, but they all kind of show the
22 same thing in a simple view, to look at a particular
23 program. They will say here's how much we have, here's how
24 much we need. They do a lot of pie chart stuff to make it
25 simple, here's where the money goes in a particular

1 program. And as simply as they can, they define the need.

2 Now, to help us through this process, starting
3 Monday, we are having a presidential management fellow,
4 Doug Herman, arriving from the Washington office and his
5 sole duty for four months is to get us through this
6 process, to help us develop a business plan.

7 Now, the thing that we are going to do
8 differently here is these business plans that I have
9 examples of, like the San Bernardino, the National Park
10 one, really define the need from the forest prospective,
11 from the national park prospective.

12 We are really a community base monument. We need
13 to find our needs from a community prospective, whether
14 it's Forest Service, BLM, the Agua Caliente Band, the City
15 of the Coachella Valley, whatever it is, everyone has an
16 interest. They have land they manage within the monument.
17 What are those needs and how do we incorporate those needs
18 into this business plan.

19 It's truly from the prospective of the monument.
20 If the tribe were to get funding and the tribe does this
21 great project within the monument on the tribal lands and
22 we have no involvement, that's still a monument success.
23 And we need to recognize those things as monument
24 successes.

25 In the City of Palm Desert, for instance, the new

1 trail development within the monument, if we had no part of
2 that, if it was solely a city project, but it's at the
3 monument, we need to capture that in the vision where we
4 are going and also where we have needs on the city side, on
5 the state park side, wherever it is, what are our needs.
6 And, hopefully, this is the tool that can be used to help
7 get us there.

8 Doug is going to initially be trying to pull some
9 folks together and the feedback I received so far is this
10 better darn well be focused. There is a certain level of
11 skepticism and cynicism to overcome based on the last
12 effort we went through with the business plan. And that's
13 understandable. We need to essentially cut to the chase on
14 this.

15 We see the product and we move toward that end and
16 we try to minimize any of the bureaucratic processes that
17 we often get hung up on. And to the degree we need to do
18 some of that, we can do that ourselves behind the scenes.

19 I think the key is to ensure that all of the
20 partners and stake holders know where we are going, what
21 our needs are and can focus to get the document done. And
22 that's the challenge.

23 And I will let Laurie -- Laurie can probably
24 elaborate on this some more, too. She has many great ideas
25 how to proceed, what the thoughts are behind this and feel

1 free to jump in.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: I don't know if this has been done
3 before, a community base as the plan. I have been asking
4 around, but to me, we may be on the cutting edge here. We
5 had originally talked about having a one-day session where
6 we brought all the stake holders in together to do kind of
7 a prioritizing so that we were not just looking at all
8 these bits and pieces. It's another option.

9 It would be nice to have feedback on the process
10 for this. But that was one thing that we had talked about.
11 I know Doug has done that before where he brought all the
12 players in.

13 So I guess my question is, does anybody have any
14 comments or preferences on different options for the plan
15 to succeed?

16 MR. BROCKMAN: I have a question.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: Okay.

18 MR. BROCKMAN: Is this the current business plan?

19 MS. ROSENTHAL: It is. And that's actually one
20 thing that I am wondering, whether we might not want to
21 have something that seems like a final for 2004 because it
22 was changed so much, whether we have such a way that we can
23 update it every year.

24 MR. BROCKMAN: That's where I was going.
25 Obviously, again, some of what you have got in the outline

1 here is our annual issues.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes.

3 MR. BROCKMAN: And I was wondering, this is an
4 annual business report, but it also occurs to me that there
5 is a blend of long-range thinking and annual implementation
6 that seems to be incorporated into one document, though,
7 somehow need to be separated so that the visionary things
8 that are in the document, which are more long-term in
9 nature, would stand for a period of time, say three years,
10 five years, whatever period of time, but that the annual
11 information, particularly budgetary, has to be updated to
12 keep it current.

13 MS. ROSENTHAL: And we also have different
14 audiences. And I don't -- one thing we had talked about
15 was whether we want to have several different documents for
16 different audiences.

17 For our legislators, we might want to have it
18 maybe a little bit, I don't know, just something that I am
19 throwing out then for the donors.

20 MR. MORGAN: This is kind of like a general fund
21 for the monument. And as Bob said, depending on funding
22 available. So he's got a good eye there.

23 So separate the two out and that way this is the
24 general fund or business fund for a long time. And the
25 stuff in it could be done as money is available on an

1 annual basis.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: And along with that, it might be
3 nice to have an annual report of what has actually been
4 accomplished as well because a lot of stuff here might
5 already be completed.

6 MR. MORGAN: So, yeah.

7 MR. LYMAN: I just -- Bob Lyman -- work really
8 well if you have a good focus; otherwise, they can be an
9 incredibly long, painful experience. So just that's the
10 nature of them.

11 If you have a product out there and you can bring
12 all the people together and then have something out there;
13 otherwise, it is just painful.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: That might not be the -- what do
15 you think about bringing everybody together for the day
16 with a facilitator to do some prioritizing as opposed to
17 each unit just doing their own thing, which is another
18 option, and it's just getting it to Doug?

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Aren't those issues that Doug
20 should be addressing?

21 When he comes aboard, he can help direct what you
22 were going to do.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: What was that?

24 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: He can help direct how to put
25 this program together.

1 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yeah.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: How to bring FIONA, the
3 foresters, and getting you all heading in the right
4 direction. I thought that was his job.

5 MR. FOOTE: You'll recall that I sent out two
6 e-mails recently to you folks regarding this process. One,
7 I was trying to get ahead of the game to establish a date,
8 in fact, as early as the week after next, to pull a group
9 together. But then in retrospect, after some more
10 discussion, I sent out as a follow-up e-mail saying we are
11 going to postpone this for a bit.

12 One of the things we want to do is get together
13 with some other folks who have been recently involved in
14 the business plan process.

15 Now, understanding they haven't been in the
16 process, they have been involved in the process, and we
17 want to learn from them where they had some problems, where
18 they had successes and pull the successful things forward
19 and recognize where the problems occur and make sure we --
20 and again, Bob's point, we have to be focused.

21 Before we engage the stake holders here, to be
22 extremely clear on where we are going so that the time is
23 spent minimized. We don't want to drag this out. We have
24 been there, done that and that was not a good outcome. So
25 we are going to do that first.

1 identifying who is the staff member that would need to be
2 engaged in this to give them an alert, to say this is
3 coming, and who is the person that is going to have the
4 knowledge of the programs of what's going on within their
5 jurisdictions in the monuments that can address these
6 issues.

7 Just kind of as an up-front alert so they are not
8 surprised if Doug were to call over to the city and talk to
9 someone and they would know nothing about what is going on.
10 They need an early alert. So we will follow up on that
11 this next week and get that letter out and, hopefully, move
12 this process forward as quickly as we can.

13 In looking at the typical government process for
14 doing these things, we could be a year out. We are not
15 going to do that. As I said, we are going to cut to the
16 chase, do this very expeditiously with great focus. We
17 have some ideas of what the end product needs to be and we
18 just need to fill in those blanks and get it done.

19 And thanks for the comments. Particularly, Bob,
20 thanks for focusing us on that issue about the long-term
21 and short-term. I think that's very much something we need
22 to look at.

23 Looking at these business plans, I am not sure
24 they have been constructed in a way that facilitates an
25 easy revision on an annual basis. So I think we need to

1 build that in to make sure we can do that because we don't
2 want to go through a four-month process every year. That's
3 not a good expenditure of time and money.

4 And once we have this fellow here, well, he's not
5 coming back. So we have got a one-shot deal to get this
6 template set and get it as far along as we can.

7 MR. MORGAN: And you got this guy for what, three
8 or four months?

9 MR. FOOTE: Four months, uh-huh.

10 MR. MORGAN: Four months. So you have to have
11 the product out in four months?

12 MR. FOOTE: Well, let's put it this way: From
13 the Pinyon side on all of our directives for FY08, they
14 have identified February of '08 as the product timeline.
15 Hopefully, we can meet that.

16 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Done so soon?

17 MR. FOOTE: Should I elaborate?

18 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: No.

19 MR. FOOTE: Laurie, anything else to add onto
20 business plans?

21 MS. ROSENTHAL: I think this is a heads-up with
22 all the cities and parks and all the different units to
23 know that this is coming. And so you can start meeting
24 with everybody in your unit to ask what are our priorities
25 for the monuments. So by the time that we get to the

1 actual process, you will have maybe reached some consensus
2 amongst your own unit, of what will be my recommendations.

3 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Go.

4 MR. FOOTE: Well, the next item was a Friends of
5 the Desert Mountains presentation by Scott Segal, but, of
6 course, he is identified for 11:15, so we are not there
7 yet, so he's not here yet. We will move past that.

8 Update on the New Monument trails map/brochure.
9 You are probably tired of listening to me. I should
10 probably turn this over to Jeff to give us an update on the
11 trails map.

12 Jeff has been very much involved as we have been
13 going through this process on development of the map
14 itself.

15 I do have the map here for folks to take a look
16 at to see where we are on progress. And it is an iterative
17 process where we keep coming back to it. We see a map. We
18 make corrections. We see another map. We keep refining
19 it. And hopefully, we are getting to a pretty good point
20 now.

21 Jeff, can you elaborate on that?

22 MR. MORGAN: Sure. We started quite some time
23 ago, probably about four or five months ago, the whole idea
24 of the process was that the existing trails map was out to
25 print and it was incorrect, so we would get rid of two

1 problems, one is make a map available and make it a correct
2 map.

3 The Wilderness Society kicked in a fair amount of
4 money to pay for this. And we just sat down and started
5 talking. We came up with some ideas first. And then we
6 started -- we got a basic map and started marking on the
7 map where the trails go, mostly electronically by GIS
8 systems, from the GES readings on the trails.

9 We have met about four or five times since then.
10 Each time, we have had an updated map, made more
11 corrections, cut out duplicate names, put things in the
12 right place, eliminated spelling mistakes, identified
13 trails and campgrounds. And it's coming along extremely
14 well.

15 It is pretty much down to the final decisions
16 coming up in the next month or so, October. And we hope to
17 have the thing out by the end of the year.

18 In conjunction with the map, there is a new
19 brochure, that little fold-up thing that you give to people
20 at the visitor center and other locations where the
21 visitors come. And this will have a minimap of the
22 monument, you know, because it's only a small pamphlet, and
23 a brief description about some of the facts about the
24 monument.

25 Also, on the map itself, it's going to be a big

1 foldout map. There is going to be some quite large spaces.
2 Given the shape of the monument, where we have additional
3 space for things, so we will put photographs and text
4 describing various things. So it won't be like a map
5 surrounded by blank. It will be a fairly well
6 professionally produced map and, hopefully, we will be able
7 to sell it.

8 MR. FOOTE: I just want to emphasize and take off
9 from what Jeff said, this is really a partnership effort.
10 Jeff mentioned that the Wilderness Society is putting in a
11 considerable amount of money. The Agua Caliente Band of
12 Cahuilla Indians is doing the GIS work. Friends of Desert
13 Mountains is very much involved in this process. We just
14 have a number of players here moving this whole process
15 forward. Palm Springs Life is very much involved,
16 particularly in the monument brochure, in laying this out
17 and helping us to move that project forward.

18 Again, this is, I think, a real good example of
19 folks coming together. They see a need in stepping up to
20 the plate, not only in terms of effort, but in terms of
21 money.

22 Without them, we would probably not be moving
23 this quickly forward and would not have products by the end
24 of the year. It's a very good example. I am very pleased
25 of the direction its taken. I do have, again, the map in

1 its current stage here, if you folks want to look at that
2 after the meeting.

3 Also, we have got some initial mock-ups of the
4 monument brochure, but it's just really generalized at this
5 point. Again, we are looking at sizes, at paper types,
6 what kind of content. The Wilderness Society is contracted
7 already for the writing of text to go into the brochure.

8 So all of this is moving along at a pretty good
9 clip and sometimes it's hard to keep up with this group.

10 MR. MORGAN: And the person who is writing the
11 text is very knowledgeable regarding the monument and she
12 is a particularly good writer. And she can also turn out
13 things pretty quickly, so we don't expect any holdups on
14 that respect, even though, we did have some holdups earlier
15 because of some funding issues.

16 She got the funding to pay for her work. It was
17 a time that this grunt money had to be expended and she
18 couldn't complete the work by the time the money ran out.
19 So she quit and then they got a new source of funding and
20 rehired her with no time limit on the funding.

21 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Who is she?

22 MR. MORGAN: Ann Chapanga. She rights for the
23 L.A. Times and lots of stuff.

24 MR. FOOTE: Any other comments on the map or the
25 brochure, where we are going, what we are looking at?

1 MR. MORGAN: Just on the timeline, we hope to
2 have it on the shelves before Christmas. That's how quick
3 we are moving.

4 MR. FOOTE: The next report, still waiting for
5 Friends of Desert Mountains representative, other BLM/USFS
6 actions.

7 Typically, in the past, I have kind of taken
8 this; however, you can see that I have been flapping my
9 gums for most of the meeting, so I am going to turn this
10 over to Laurie and John to update on the other BLM and
11 Forest Service actions.

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: Jim, considering you have done
13 most of the talking, you have made it very interesting.

14 MR. FOOTE: Oh, thank you.

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: Just a few projects that are in
16 the monument I would like to talk about. To the Tamarisk
17 Removal Project from Palm Canyon, we have completed the
18 formal scoping, so we are in the process of writing the
19 DPA. And, hopefully, that will be done by the end of year
20 and, hopefully, there will be money the next fiscal year to
21 actually implement this removal in Palm Canyon.

22 The Santa Rosa Fuel Reduction Project, some of
23 you are on the mailing list, but maybe not all of you. So,
24 Jim, if you wouldn't mind sending that, that scoping
25 document out to everybody on the mailing list.

1 MR. MORGAN: When does the scoping period end?

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: October 1. So there is still
3 time.

4 We did a presentation at a previous meeting about
5 that Santa Rosa project. The Cahuilla/Colima deck, the
6 contracting bidding should be complete in the next week or
7 two and be awarded by the end of the fiscal year. Again,
8 we have the money for that one, so we anticipate as soon as
9 the contract is let, that we will start work on the
10 Cahuilla/Colima for the deck replacement.

11 In July, we had a land summit, as far as
12 San Bernardino National Forest, held a land summit of which
13 Joan Taylor and Bill Havert participated. This was a
14 chance to get input from all our partners that have been
15 involved with land accusation, including, of course,
16 Friends of the Desert Mountains. They are a big player.
17 And Bill is the cofacilitater and he is doing a lot of
18 follow-up work on that, too. It was a great first step.
19 And all of our partners were there.

20 And lastly, as Jim already mentioned, we are in
21 the process, and I think that will happen very shortly,
22 hiring a recreation technician. This person will do both
23 what Frank Mowery was doing, he will be very much involved
24 in the Monument Advisory Committee and take some of the
25 load off of Jim, which he has been doing like at least five

1 jobs. And, also, he will be the eyes and ears out in the
2 field as well as for Forest Service Lands in the monument.

3 Any comments?

4 MR. MORGAN: On the Tamarisk Reduction Project,
5 did you -- I know little comments were made during the
6 meetings and written comments to whoever they went to
7 regarding increasing the size of the project --

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: To Horse Thief.

9 MR. MORGAN: -- to Horse Thief Creek.

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: A decision was made that that is
11 kind of a different analysis. And so what we are looking
12 for in '08, with -- hopefully, we will get some Mary Bono
13 earmark funds. And if we do, we are looking to start on
14 that. But we felt that it was such a different analysis
15 and it was a different area, that that needed its own
16 separate analysis.

17 MR. MORGAN: Because we are starting to work with
18 earmark funds for the next fiscal year starting in October.
19 And if you could give me a summary of that, I will try and
20 put it into the memory requests.

21 MS. ROSENTHAL: Let's talk afterwards.

22 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

23 MS. ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

24 MR. KALISH: I will pass out one of our News
25 bytes summaries of a recent visit that we had from our

1 Deputy Secretary of Interior, Lynn Scarlett. It falls in
2 the category of having friends in high places. All of you
3 should have gotten an e-mail invite to the dedication
4 ceremony that we had out at the preserve on Tuesday
5 morning. It was a very hot, humid morning, but a few of
6 you were there.

7 The dedications actually went very well. I think
8 in talking with Lynn Scarlett as she was about ready to
9 board the airplane down at the Palm Springs Airport, I
10 think she is very impressed at the level of collaboration,
11 overall coordination here in Coachella Valley as it relates
12 to initiatives such as the monument and the MS8CP and
13 development of the preserve system and especially tied into
14 the Coachella Valley Preserve.

15 So she got quite a good overview of all the great
16 things that are happening here in the valley. And we were
17 very excited to have her out here and tell her about all
18 the great things that are being done.

19 Lynn did dedicate the acquisition of 321-acres in
20 addition to the Coachella Valley Preserve utilizing the
21 Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. We just called
22 it FLTFA. That's kind of a mouthful.

23 The way the process works is that we have offered
24 up 50 BLM parcels here in Coachella Valley. The majority
25 of which are up in the Dillon Road area. They are kind of

1 scattered parcels that are in an area that back in the late
2 '40s '50s '60s, the land around those BLM parcels were
3 acquired under the Small Tract Act, were purchased by
4 people back then. And these -- most of them are five-acre
5 tracts and they just remained, were never purchased.

6 And so the plan is to offer up these 50 parcels.
7 And under FLTFA, we will be able to utilize the funds made
8 through the sale to inquire habitat here in the valley and
9 recreation lands elsewhere.

10 Actually, it's being utilized throughout the
11 country. In fact, one of the other things that
12 Lynn Scarlett was highlighting was that this act has been
13 used in 19 other areas throughout the west to do very
14 similar things that we are doing here in the valley. As
15 far as open space, there is a very high value, recreation
16 land, historic land, wild life habitat, corridors and the
17 like. So we are one component of a large process.

18 We just do the real estate market thing a
19 little bit slow here in the valley. We sold only 2 of our
20 50 parcels, so we have 48 more to sell. Actually, we are
21 continuing the sale to every 60 days, and we will have a
22 cutoff of bids on these individual parcels.

23 And if you are interested, just go to our office
24 website and there is a link that ties you right into a very
25 good map where the parcels are and how the process works.

1 But definitely tell your friends about this is a
2 great chance to buy a little piece of BLM and see that
3 money go into the park and great wildlife habitat as part
4 of the overall preserve system. Keep that in mind.

5 We are really hoping this winter that things will
6 pick up a little bit. And, of course, a lot of other
7 people are hoping the same thing. We are going to try to
8 really get out front and try to market these parcels maybe
9 a little bit better than what we did last June when we put
10 those parcels on the market.

11 The majority of these parcels are close to the
12 Indio Hills community area up along Dillon Road, so some
13 beautiful pieces of BLM land.

14 So overall, I think it was a very successful
15 visit. And Lynn, of course, will head back to Washington
16 with all of the great information that we gave her and,
17 hopefully, from an overall monument standpoint and all of
18 the other initiatives here in the valley, hopefully, we
19 will see some real dividends from that.

20 As far as overall projects, we are just starting
21 the process of going through scoping for the Los Angeles
22 Department of Water and Power's Green Path project, which
23 is a 500-kV line, that is proposed to tap into some of the
24 renewable energy down in Imperial County, get it up through
25 the valley into the Beaver Substation north of

1 Palm Springs.

2 And then from there, the proposed line would run
3 past Desert Hot Springs out through the Morongo Preserve,
4 kind of cut the preserve in half, run through Yucca Valley
5 and then on over through Pioneer Town and Pipes Canyon and
6 then kind of wrap its way around through Lucerne Valley and
7 then to Victorville and then head down the Cajon Pass and
8 tie into one of their substations down in the Lytle Creek
9 area.

10 So that's the proposal that they have come
11 forward and given us. So as we go through the scoping
12 process, I am sure that many issues will be raised. In
13 fact, we have already been in communication with several
14 groups that are farming, especially up in the Yucca Valley
15 area, that have some issues with the line.

16 One of our real efforts in this process as the
17 federal lead for the development of the EIS, the sequel
18 lead, because they are an unregulated facility, it will be
19 the LADWP. So we are going to be doing a joint document
20 with the LADWP.

21 But we are going to ensure that we exhaust all
22 reasonable alternative alignments that would be their
23 overall project needs. So we are just in the very
24 beginning of this process and you will be seeing notices
25 out relative to the initial scoping meetings that we plan

1 to hold.

2 You have heard about the Southern California
3 Edison's divert to Palos Verde 500-kV line that does affect
4 the monument and goes up through the national forest for a
5 short section.

6 The EIS is finalized. The process right now has
7 been delayed as Edison and the California Public Utilities
8 Commission and us as the federal lead agency work with the
9 Arizona Corporations Commission in dealing with issues that
10 that commission has on the portion of the line that runs
11 through the Coffee Wildlife Refuge. This line, if you
12 don't know, starts in Huachuca Valley in Arizona and ends
13 up at the valley substation right in the Romoland area
14 south of Riverside over around Hemet. So that process is
15 ongoing.

16 If an agreement is reached with the Arizona
17 Corporations Commission, then we would issue a record of
18 decision on that project.

19 We are finalizing with DISCIR on a wind
20 energy repower project located within the city limits of
21 Palm Springs, really right south of where the Amtrak Train
22 Station is in an area where there were turbans in the late
23 '90s. Section 28 Wind Energy Association went bankrupt,
24 left us a bunch of turbans or scrap that we ended up having
25 to remove. So AES SeaWest is the company that has the

1 proposal for both the City of Palm Springs and us. So we
2 are jointly doing a DISCIR process where we are going
3 through the process to wrap that up.

4 Right now, we are -- as soon as we can finish our
5 consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service dealing
6 with sand transport and fluvial flow issues down to White
7 Water River, right in that area or right downstream a
8 little ways from the Seven Palms, and that process should
9 speed up. You should be hearing more about that.

10 And then a little further from the valley, we
11 have a number of solar energy project proposals, which are
12 going to be taking quite a bit of our time and effort
13 working with the California Energy Commission during the
14 process of those projects.

15 Energy is definitely the big initiative right
16 now, as everyone is aware, and it's manifesting itself in
17 the numbers of overall project work that we are seeing here
18 in our office.

19 And lastly, we had a ranger, Jody Chertell, that
20 was dedicated to patrolling the National Monument. She is
21 moving on to the center of the state, a little bit north of
22 Polson, to another BLM position very shortly and we are
23 going through the process to advertise and get someone into
24 that position to continue the coverage of the National
25 Monument.

1 And in the interim, we will just be spreading out
2 our existing ranger staff to get up and cover the monument
3 as issues arise.

4 That about covers it. If have you any questions?

5 MR. MORGAN: That Green Path, that 500-kV line, I
6 don't think it will be generating enough power from this
7 renewable, so called renewable resources, to fill that up.
8 And I think there is a piece missing and that's the bit
9 that comes in from Mexico to join it, where they are going
10 to use the Mexican power that is from old, very, very
11 polluted old plants to actually bring the electricity to
12 wherever it's going, you know, L.A. area from Mexico. And
13 so that might be something you might want to consider in
14 your preparation of that.

15 MR. KALISH: There is a missing piece in their
16 proposal and that's the IID connection that comes up out of
17 Imperial and gets into the Beaver substation. That has not
18 been presented as part of their project. And that's
19 another part of the effort that we are ongoing with LADWP
20 for them to present that part of the project.

21 We have to analyze the entire project as a whole.

22 MR. MORGAN: As I said, because none of it would
23 come from Mexicali across into Imperial County.

24 MR. KALISH: That would really start to answer
25 some of those questions as to, obviously, they want to tie

1 into the geothermal. There is also solar facilities that
2 are being proposed in Imperial County.

3 MR. MORGAN: As I said, the real reason behind
4 all of this is to bring in power from Mexico where it is
5 cheaper and it's -- they use older power plants that don't
6 burn as clean as the newer power plants.

7 MR. KALISH: We really try to, for the purpose
8 and need of these projects, to flush that out. We are
9 trying to contract with the system's engineer that can
10 represent BLM in sorting out not only whether or not
11 alternatives are feasible when we are being told they are
12 not from an engineering standpoint and then they can also
13 assess and pull into the analysis, from an engineering
14 standpoint, they can start to answer some of those
15 questions as to where generated power is going to be
16 located and then where tie-ins. And ultimately, from a
17 purpose-needs standpoint, what's the objective, overall
18 project objective.

19 Mr. MORGAN: And there is also a proposed new
20 power plant substation. I can't remember. I think it's
21 eight megawatts. It's a big one. And that would use the
22 western section of the Palos Verdes and goes over wherever
23 it goes. It goes over the north of San Jacinto.

24 MR. KALISH: Over the valley substations very
25 close to the 215.

1 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

2 MR. KALISH: You go down the south -- if you are
3 driving on the 215, you can see a large power plant that is
4 being constructed over in the Perris/Romoland area. It's a
5 very large substation.

6 MR. MORGAN: Well, as I said, there is one
7 proposed just north of I-10 where the existing substation
8 is. And as I say, it's a big one. And they say it's to
9 help Coachella Valley out in power shortage time. But we
10 could never use all the power that they would generate. It
11 would all be going to L.A. And all the dirt and what this
12 would put out would either blow onto the monument or blow
13 onto Joshua Tree National Park, so that's, you know, power
14 companies are just really ramping off right now.

15 MR. KALISH: To say the least.

16 MR. FOOTE: Great. Thanks, John. Thanks, Laurie.

17 One final item. We are still waiting for our
18 Friends of the Desert Mountains individual to come.

19 We've, in the past, discussed the facilities up on
20 Santa Rosa Mountain, Santa Rosa Campground, Yellow Post
21 sites. We are about to gauge in, I hesitate to use the
22 word "plan," because that conjures up notions of a long
23 process complicated, but let's say a short planning
24 process, to look at what exactly we need up there, how are
25 we going to reconfigure the site, what do we want to do on

1 Santa Rosa Mountain relative to facilities and facility
2 enhancements, improvements, whatever the case may be.

3 To start that process, we would like to get a
4 representative from the MAC to volunteer to participate in
5 that. I will also be up at the Pinyon Community Council
6 meeting on Monday. I will discuss this further.
7 Certainly, we want to keep the Pinyon Community involved in
8 this and we can look at that further.

9 But from the standpoint of the Monument Advisory
10 Committee, certainly ask for a nomination or somebody who
11 just wants to volunteer to become part of that effort.

12 MR. MORGAN: Right. Buford likes it up there.

13 MR. FOOTE: Well, we know Buford is involved.
14 Buford will be involved and we just wanted to open that up
15 and see if there is anyone else that might want to also
16 participate.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: He would be representing the --

18 MR. FOOTE: That's correct.

19 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I was trying to get out of
20 things these days. I was trying to retire. No.

21 MR. FOOTE: If there is no one, we will proceed.

22 MR. MORGAN: What will it involve?

23 MR. FOOTE: I will turn this over to Laurie. It's
24 really going to be a Forest Service led effort. And we are
25 looking at potential dates to meet on-site.

1 Laurie can shed a little more light on that.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes. Sometime between now and the
3 first week in October, we are going to have a field trip
4 and we are trying to identify that day.

5 And that's just the initial let's go up to
6 Santa Rosa and just the sky's the limit, do all the right
7 stuff what would be the greatest potential and come up with
8 a concept. And that's all this is going to be doing.

9 Friends are going to be looking for funding. So
10 this is an effort just to get a concept plan, where are the
11 trail heads, do we want parking here, let's look at the
12 camp websites that we have now, can any of them be moved.

13 In order to do the little stuff, you need to first
14 have a big picture, so that's what this is about. I don't
15 see this as being a tremendous amount of time for anybody
16 on it. Maybe one or two days tops.

17 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

18 MR. FOOTE: Is that a "yes" from Jeff?

19 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

20 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Thank you, Jeff.

21 And I guess we are getting down to the wire here
22 on our time for -- well, we are approaching "Public
23 Comments" period and I guess we just have one more agenda
24 item.

25 Mr. Chair, how would you like to proceed?

1 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: When is Scott due?

2 MS. WATLING: He was leaving right then, so 20,
3 25 minutes from the time I reached him.

4 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Well, we have to be here
5 through "Public Comments"; is that correct?

6 MR. FOOTE: That's only seven minutes away.

7 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I know.

8 MR. FOOTE: I think our options are we can delay
9 the report from the Friends to a subsequent meeting if by
10 the time 11:00 arrives and he has not shown up and we wish
11 to adjourn the meeting, we can do that.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: But is Mr. Segal on his way?

13 MR. FOOTE: Yes, he is.

14 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I think it would be rude of us
15 not to at least hear him out after he made the effort to
16 get here.

17 MS. WATLING: He promised he would be brief.

18 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Well, why don't we take a break
19 until 11:00 and see if the public shows. And in the
20 meantime, Mr. Segal may put in an appearance. And if there
21 be no great public commentary, we can go directly to
22 Mr. Segal and then we can get out of here.

23 Would that be the notion that everybody wants to
24 pursue?

25 MR. FOOTE: Sure. Sounds good.

1 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Take a break for five minutes.

2 MR. FOOTE: I will lay out the trails map here if
3 anyone wants to take a look at that.

4 (Break taken.)

5 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Mr. Segal, you are up.

6 MR. SEGAL: All right. Where do I go?

7 I guess I can just kind of lean here as a prop to
8 make me feel better.

9 All right. Thank you, everyone. It's nice to be
10 here today. I hurried right over. And I am glad I got a
11 phone call to get me here a little early.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: So are we.

13 MR. SEGAL: It kept me on time.

14 Anyway, it's going to be a very busy year of
15 monument activities and programs working as, sort of, at
16 this point in time, a one-man's-port operation. I am
17 really getting a good acclamation, a really good
18 orientation to what is going on and what the job entails.
19 Tracy Albrecht has really been instrumental in kind of
20 running me -- putting me through the paces and helping me
21 get setup for a lot of the things that are coming up and
22 also giving me some great advice.

23 The Friends this year, it's looking like it's
24 going to be extremely busy and extremely active as far as
25 for volunteers and different programs. And some of the

1 things that we are really looking forward to, you know, a
2 lot of our volunteers, we really need to ramp up the
3 volunteer activity with the Friends.

4 And so in order to do that, I really have been
5 speaking with a lot of volunteers and finding out what
6 kinds of things will help to motivate them, to reinforce
7 their participation as volunteers and really taking some
8 time to listen.

9 And their feedback has one common thing, is that
10 there needs to be some perceived payoff in addition to the
11 altruistic motivations that come with volunteering, there
12 needs to be something there that is also set in. So I have
13 been really stretching my creative side to come up with
14 some engaging activities and different kinds of training
15 opportunities that have a perceived benefit. I think we
16 have really done some of that.

17 I am going to start this year, we are looking with
18 a season kickoff event, and I will be attending a Friends'
19 board meeting in order to get final authorization for that.
20 I am going to be requesting some funds. And we really want
21 to start off with a great event to pull people in, people
22 who have been active members of the community, Friends'
23 members, volunteers, board members. I would really like to
24 have people present for the season kickoff event that's
25 tentatively I am looking towards getting approval for

1 November 8th at the visitor center. And we will be in
2 contact with more news on that matter.

3 So we would like to do something where we really
4 engage people with some food, first of all, which helps to
5 get people there, also with a good lineup of different
6 kinds of information related to the monument, a Monument in
7 Your Backyard presentation, an examination of the programs
8 and events that are coming up and then really working to
9 motivate people to reactivate as far as active members of
10 the Friends and as volunteers with an incentive of a
11 natural history bus tour, which Tracy Albrecht -- these are
12 things that I am going to be proposing at this board
13 meeting, my next board meeting, but I think it has a good
14 amount of support within the board, so we are going to work
15 through it.

16 But we would like to motivate people to really
17 come back in, reactivate and prepare for an active season.
18 We want to catch -- a lot of our volunteers are snowbirds,
19 so we would like to catch them at the beginning of the
20 season before they get engaged and involved in all sorts of
21 other activities and I really show them an attractive set
22 of opportunities for involvement.

23 So we do this season kickoff reception. We have a
24 number of incentives and really we would like to do a
25 natural history bus tour, which will also double as a great

1 training opportunity for prospective volunteers. And to
2 motivate people to do that, we would like to make some --
3 to make an attractive package as far as the people, update
4 as far as volunteers and reactivate the volunteers and sign
5 the new forms that need to be signed. We would like to
6 make it something that is extremely affordable, if not
7 free, for people who are going to be very active in
8 supporting the monument programs this year.

9 In addition, we have a great lineup of family
10 excursions. This is something new that I brought with the
11 Friends and brought to the Friends organization. We would
12 like to involve families and let them know that, you know,
13 this is our monument and the opportunities not only for
14 recreation, but for personal growth, for exercise, health
15 and fitness and civic involvement are here.

16 And by exploring different places, this is a set
17 of field trips for families the first Saturday of every
18 month, by exploring these different places, these national
19 treasures in the monument, some outside of the monument,
20 but all in our area. It helps people to see the common
21 theme of, you know, family recreation and doing things that
22 are healthy and engaging and supporting the community and
23 supporting our national resources in this area, being aware
24 of that, taking advantage of that.

25 So the first Saturday of every month, we have an

1 exciting lineup. We just had our first on September 1,
2 which was in correlation, also, with Mt. San Jacinto State
3 Parks Family Days event and we actually brought extra
4 volunteers. We were able to bring numerous volunteers, who
5 because of Mt. San Jacinto had a couple of cancellations,
6 we were able to support their program and encourage a good
7 continuing relationship with the state park. And they have
8 been very supportive in the tram link and very supportive
9 of helping that. It turned out great. I am going to be
10 circulating pictures by e-mail and I will get those to
11 Jim Foote and some of the other people here that I have
12 your e-mail addresses, pictures of those events and others.

13 So in addition to the family excursions, another
14 program that we have been successful in starting up and
15 very pleased with the turnout have been the Thursday
16 morning hikes. This is really a set of weekly, regularly
17 occurring weekly events, being hikes early morning
18 throughout the summer. We have been starting at 6:00 in
19 the morning, and one- to two-hour hikes up through trails
20 that are in the vicinity -- the trails are in the vicinity
21 of the visitor center.

22 We usually leave from the the visitor center.
23 Sometimes we have two groups, we explore two groups
24 simultaneously. A lot of volunteer participation in that.
25 And we basically go out and we do a little bit of exploring

1 and help people connect, but also to learn more about the
2 monument. And I do a good spiel at the start, talk about
3 the monument, talk about how it was created and the
4 functions. I talk about the Friends involvement and the
5 target level of involvement with the Friends and explain
6 that this is a membership supported organization and the
7 programs and the activities for the monument that are
8 supported by volunteers. And we had some really good
9 feedback on that and quite a few people. And volunteer
10 participation, like I said, it's been high. We have
11 averaged between 14 and 15 people per event weekly. So
12 this is great.

13 If you can imagine, during the summer, hiking,
14 people coming out early in the morning, hiking with us and
15 just making it a consistent event, this is great. 14, 15
16 people is nice.

17 And I would like to extend an invitation to each
18 and every one of you, if you ever get the time and you
19 happen to be up at maybe five in the morning with not much
20 to do, feel free to come by one of our Thursday morning
21 hikes and we would love to see you there.

22 I think on that note, having people become
23 familiar, especially community, you know, members of the
24 community and residents and other people who have
25 participated, having them become familiar with some of the

1 other people who are vested in the monument and the
2 operations is extremely important.

3 Working within the Friends to try and have people
4 communicate more and intermingle so that the volunteers can
5 get to know the board members or the staff or vis versa in
6 the monument, always make an attempt to do that. So that's
7 just something that I was going to mention as far as
8 current programs now.

9 Something that I work a lot on and am very excited
10 about, very happy to be involved with, since my background
11 career as an educator, working with the hike program, the
12 Healthy Initiative for Kids in the Environment program,
13 which is our education outreach, is something that is very
14 rewarding.

15 And I am learning a lot working Tracy Albrecht,
16 who basically developed the curriculum and has been working
17 with outdoor education and Palm biology, since the phase of
18 the museum, so the best part of the last 20 years. She is
19 really teaching me a lot.

20 And we have been presenting this program to
21 Palm Springs Unified School District. Actually, we gained
22 access and went to the fourth grade science inservice
23 training, a three-academic-year training for fourth grade
24 teachers, at Katherine Sinche Elementary School and we
25 presented the program to them. And we have had

1 overwhelming, just a resounding interest level of
2 enthusiasm for this program. It is great.

3 And we have been able to -- thus far, we have
4 scheduled more than half of our available sessions, and
5 that was just last week. So things are turning out great.

6 I just spent the first two hours of the morning,
7 first hour and a half of my morning today just confirming
8 with teachers who were responding, communicating with the
9 lead teachers. And we do the two-part program, first part
10 being a classroom lesson and then they return to each class
11 and then take them on a field trip into the monument.

12 And the Auga Caliente Band Indians have been so
13 generous and gracious to allow access for the program into
14 the canyons.

15 And so it's very rewarding to work with these
16 students and teach them about some of the health and safety
17 aspects of the natural environment, but also the monument
18 as a whole, how it is our national treasure and the
19 importance of conservation. And we really do this while
20 addressing standards, especially in natural science,
21 language arts, mathematics, all sorts of standards that we
22 have. It's a wonderful program and we have had great
23 success in scheduling.

24 We have nine sessions total. We are working at
25 serving over 1,000 students this year. And I think the

1 prospects of this program growing and serving even more
2 grade levels in the future are promising. So that's
3 something to look at.

4 I do have a lot of materials, by the way. I
5 thought of bringing a stack of papers, packet for each one
6 of you to show you what we are doing. And then I thought,
7 wait a second, I work for a conservation organization, so I
8 better conserve.

9 My phone number is 862-9084, and my e-mail -- and
10 I encourage you, if you ever have a question or if you
11 would like to become involved or help out with any of our
12 programs, even to serve as a volunteer or to donate money,
13 materials for our programs, let me know.

14 My e-mail is SSEGAL@saveourmountains.org. So I
15 would love to hear from you or I would be happy to e-mail
16 you a great stack of paperwork or any information you might
17 like related to our activities and programs and our support
18 efforts. And please do stay in touch, get in touch with
19 me.

20 Let's see. As far as the upcoming year, switching
21 into a recruiting and training mode, right now we are doing
22 a lot of PR work, press releases, communicating and
23 collaboration with volunteer coordination groups like
24 Riverside County Volunteer -- Senior Volunteer Program, the
25 RSVP program. And that's our major, major focus coming

1 towards the future, to make sure that we have volunteers
2 that are trained and ready to support some of these
3 programs. And we are using some very ingenious methods to
4 attract people. And we have got a great lineup.

5 Once we have suitable people recruited and we are
6 going to be also doing some background screening through
7 their Live Scam Program so that we don't entail or bring on
8 any liabilities for our organizations or programs. We are
9 going to be doing some great training. We are finalizing
10 that right now. Of course, pending authorization from my
11 board, I will be able take the graph off of this, but we
12 have some great training paid for.

13 The tram has been very supportive. We are going
14 to go up there for a couple different training sessions.
15 And the tram has, like I said, been very generous. We have
16 training sessions up at the top of the tram where we are
17 going to have a lot of our education programs, volunteers
18 and other people come up there for some great training,
19 natural history training, classroom management, other such
20 things related to the curriculum. It should be nice.

21 And I can see people's eyes glazing over, so I am
22 just going to say are there any questions?

23 MS. WATLING: Why don't you say your days what you
24 work.

25 MR. SEGAL: Oh, I work Saturday -- actually,

1 Tuesday through Saturday. Oftentimes, because we are lucky
2 to have a server, an off-site server, I check my e-mail
3 pretty much every day. And like I say, you can get in
4 touch with me. And if you really need to get in touch with
5 me and you call my office and I don't happen to there, my
6 cell phone is (760) 327-1538.

7 So, again, I am very excited about this upcoming
8 season. I am going to be very, very busy, but I will
9 always have time to answer any questions or communicate
10 with one of you should I hear from you.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: Thanks, Scott. I appreciate
13 you coming down in such short notice there.

14 James?

15 MR. FOOTE: Just two final quickies. October 13,
16 La Quinta Trails Day, which is another partnership effort
17 that is with the monument with the City of La Quinta with
18 some other partners. The focus is going to be on trails
19 and trail hiking out of La Quinta Cove. You will see in
20 the paper or La Quinta local papers that they have, in
21 fact, advertised us already. And we are still working out
22 details on that.

23 And finally, we just want to thank, again, Bob and
24 his wife Carol for bringing all of the great goodies and
25 giving us this great location to hold meetings.

1 Thank you, Bob.

2 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: The remaining item is called
3 "Meeting Review - motions, actions, future agenda items.
4 MAC Chair, members."

5 Okay. My meeting summary is we approved the
6 minutes and Mr. Foote talked.

7 Would you care to add more?

8 MR. FOOTE: I am done.

9 CHAIRPERSON MUTH: I believe we are done.

10 (Ending time 11:23 a.m.)

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