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SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY
Palm Springs, California

DATE
AND TIME: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006
9:16 A.M. - P.M.

REPORTED BY: TRACY JIROUT
CSR No. 12896

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A P P E A R A N C E S

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):
CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: City of La Quinta, new MAC Chair
MR. MORGAN: Sierra Club
MR. SERVICE: Winter Park Authority
MR. BROCKMAN: City of Rancho Mirage
MR. CRITES: City of Palm Desert
BARBARA GONZALES-LYONS: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
Indians
LAURIE ROSENTHAL: San Jacinto District Ranger, Forest
Service
DAWN WELLMAN: Pinyon Community Council
JEANNE WADE-EVANS: US Forest Service, San Bernardino
National Forest Supervisor
PAUL MARCHAND
BLM STAFF:
MR. FOOTE: BLM Recreational Planner
FRANK MOWRY: BLM writer/editor
NATIONAL MONUMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
JEANNE WADE-EVANS: Supervisor.
STEVE BORCHARD: Desert district manager
LORIE ROSENTHAL: San Jacinto district ranger
GAIL ACHESON: Field manager

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1 PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006

2 9:16 A.M.

3 -o0o-

4 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you for joining us. We
5 are a little late getting started we do have a quorum. We
6 are now going to open the meeting. Excuse me. I'm going
7 to sit back down, and I will try to speak as loud as I can
8 for those of you. And the folks that are visiting with us
9 today, thank you for joining us. And with that, I will
10 call the meeting to order. Could we have role call,
11 please.

12 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Role call. Robert Brockman?

13 MR. BROCKMAN: Here.

14 MR. FOOTE: Kathie Brennan? Absent.

15 Buford Crites?

16 MR. CRITES: Present.

17 MR. FOOTE: Barbara Gonzalez-Lyons?

18 MS. GONZALEZ-LYONS: Here.

19 MR. FOOTE: Bill Havert? Absent.

20 Terry Henderson?

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Here.

22 MR. FOOTE: Bob Lyman?

23 MR. LYMAN: Here.

24 MR. FOOTE: Paul Marchand?

25 MR. MARCHAND: Present.

1 MR. FOOTE: Jeff Morgan?
2 MR. MORGAN: Here.
3 MR. FOOTE: Allen Muth? Absent.
4 Mary Roche? Absent.
5 Ric Service?
6 MR. SERVICE: Here.
7 MR. FOOTE: Gary Watts? Absent.
8 Dawn Wellman?
9 MS. WELLMAN: Present.
10 MR. FOOTE: Let the record reflect, that
11 Frank Bogart, who did represent the City of Palm Springs,
12 has resigned. I would also like to acknowledge that we do
13 have the entire National Monument board of directors here:
14 Jeanne Wade-Evans for supervisor; Steve Borchard, Desert
15 district manager; Lorie Rosenthal, San Jacinto district
16 ranger; and Gail Acheson, field manager, who this is her
17 last meeting. She is retiring, effective January 3rd.
18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: And I thank you. I was also
19 going to comment on Gail's retirement. We're certainly
20 sorry to see her go. I hope that you all got the flyer
21 through e-mail about the lunch that's upcoming. I regret
22 to say that I will be unable to attend that, but I would
23 hope that some MAC members are able to attend.
24 Gail, we're certainly sorry to see you go. We
25 wish you well in your retirement. And as so many MAC

1 members have done when they've left their respective
2 agencies, they've stayed on the monument, so perhaps you
3 might want to come visit us occasionally?

4 MS. ACHESON: I'll do that. I'm from northern
5 California, but I don't expect this to be the last time
6 working with the MAC. All of the cities, everyone here,
7 it's a wonderful valley, a fabulous Monument that we have.
8 I wish I came to California earlier. Let's put it that
9 way.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We wish you had came earlier
11 too. Thank you for your service. Excuse me. Let's go
12 back to Jim.

13 MR. FOOTE: Also, I would also like to recognize
14 Gina Sampson at this table, who is the partnership
15 coordinator for the San Bernardino National Forest.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: And Sharon is here
17 representing -- or will be -- Palm Springs. Her
18 application is in?

19 MR. FOOTE: Yes.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: She's back there somewhere.

21 MR. FOOTE: I'll cover that when we get to the rest.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Okay. All right. Yes,
23 Buford?

24 MR. CRITES: If it would be appropriate, I think it
25 would be nice if the Chair would send a letter to.

1 Frank Mowry, who has left BLM, but served as monument
2 staff person for the last three years, and while he's no
3 longer with BLM, it would be nice to send a letter to
4 express our appreciation for his work on the monument over
5 that three-year period.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I certainly would agree that
7 that's appropriate, and I thank you for your suggestion.

8 MR. CRITES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: And it will be done. Any
10 further comments under role call? If not, we'll move to
11 the first action item: Which is approval of the September
12 9th meeting minutes.

13 MR. CRITES: So moved.

14 MR. MARCHAND: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We have a motion and a second.
16 All of those in favor indicate by saying aye.

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any abstentions or nays?
19 Those minutes are approved.

20 On the next item is action item on the schedule for
21 the MAC meeting in 2007/2008. That is an attachment to
22 the agenda that was here today. I'm not sure that it went
23 out previously by e-mail, so I'll give you just a second
24 to review those dates. I'm assuming this is holding true
25 to the first Saturday on a quarterly basis?

1 MR. FOOTE: Yes, with the exception of September to
2 account for the Labor Day holiday.

3 MR. MORGAN: Wouldn't that Labor Day holiday be the
4 same on the following year?

5 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: So you have September 8th for
6 '07 and September 6th for '08? I'm assuming you looked at
7 a calendar?

8 MR. FOOTE: Correct.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: You checked the calendar and
10 got it past Labor Day?

11 MR. FOOTE: Yes, Labor Day in 2008 happens to be the
12 -- I believe the 1st of September, which occurs on a
13 Monday, meaning the weekend actually starts in August.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any comments on this calendar?
15 If not, we are looking for approval of that.

16 MR. MARCHAND: Move to approval.

17 MR. SERVICE: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We have a motion and a second.
19 All in favor say aye.

20 (Chorus of ayes)

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Motion passes. At this point,
22 it's a discussion item with Mr. Crites. Mr. Crites, if
23 you have no objections, I would like to move public
24 comment, which is scheduled for 11:00, keeping in mind at
25 11:00, we will have another session of public comments,

1 but if we could move to that now, give some of the folks
2 in the back of the room an opportunity to express the
3 reason why they are attending our meeting this morning and
4 join in our discussion.

5 So if you have no objections to that, I will
6 move that forward and request that the speakers, please,
7 keep your comments to three minutes or under, and do your
8 best to not repeat what the previous speaker had to say.

9 We do not have any request-to-speak forms, so I
10 don't know your names to call on you that way. Maybe if
11 you would start forming a line with three people in the
12 line, and as the speaker sits down, a third person joins
13 the back. And come up individually, keeping your comments
14 to three minutes, and state your name, for the record, and
15 your address. Maybe there are only two people here who
16 would like to speak, and that would be delightful too. I
17 would say right there is good.

18 MR. SACHS: I thank you very much for moving it
19 forward because I have an association meeting to go to.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Your name, please and address?

21 MR. SACHS: Charles Sachs, S-a-c-h-s, 335
22 Marisel Road, Palm Springs 92262. I just got an alert
23 about this idea of putting windmills up here on the
24 mountains. As a new resident here -- well, for two and a
25 half years -- I've watched gradually the encroachment,

1 into the landscape, of windmills in general. And it seems
2 in the past year to two years just on the flats of the
3 Valley, it's almost doubled, and some people think, yes,
4 it's wonderful for the energy factor, but the other thing,
5 it also can become a visual blight if there's too much,
6 and the valley down there is already just turning in a
7 huge number of these windmills. And to move this up on
8 the mountains and feasibly have it on the crest of the
9 mountains, I think, will be a visual blight. And 400 feet
10 tall is a 40-story building that's up there.

11 And I think we should consider some of our
12 natural habitat as a resource itself, so it's very
13 important that, yes, we need to have renewable energy, but
14 at some point in time, we have to say put it in the right
15 place, and not destroy our incredible habitat here, and we
16 urge you all to vote against this.

17 And if they have a lower area, like in the
18 flats, if that works, keep it to a minimum because already
19 on the other side of the valley, it's just a huge amount
20 of windmills, and I think it's out of control.

21 And the energy bill, if I remember it, it didn't
22 pass on the ballot. So I think it's an issue that also
23 the people want renewable energy, but the type that would
24 not hurt the environment in other ways, like the windmills
25 and the animals and all that. So thank you very much. I

1 have to leave before 11:00. I hope it was appropriate to
2 make comments at this time.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: You did. Thank you very much.
4 Buford?

5 MR. CRITES: I know at some point, we might ask our
6 monument manager to respond as to whether or not the
7 national monument legislation even allows wind energy
8 production within its boundaries.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Would you like to respond to
10 that?

11 MR. FOOTE: I can do that now. It's not addressed in
12 the monument legislation; however, under BLM policy,
13 windmill and wind energy development is prohibited in
14 national landscape conservation area units or within the
15 system, monument being one of them. Just as a caveat to
16 that, because the question may come up, windmills are
17 allowed in the California desert conservation area, which
18 is also a unit of the national landscape conservation
19 system; however, anything in the monument, again, another
20 NLCS unit -- we have layering of NLCS units -- is
21 prohibited. That's on BLM lands under BLM policy. It
22 does not apply to private lands.

23 MR. STARKS: Well, I just have some comments.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Could we have your name,
25 please?

1 MR. STARKS: My name is Les Starks. I live in
2 Snow Creek. I have some comments from Alan Hamel and
3 Suzanne Somers, who own property at Snow Creek, so I'll
4 just read the following. It's from Suzanne Somers:

5 We are dismayed that there is the possibility of
6 constructing a major wind farm in the Snow Creek area.

7 For 30 years, we have turned off Highway 10 onto
8 Highway 111 heading into town and at that moment, we are
9 (home): There is a palpable feeling of joy and
10 anticipation at entering this special place on earth. And
11 anyone who lives here, knows what we are talking about.

12 If the wind farm is erected, Palm Springs will
13 lose a little more of the very thing that brought us here
14 in the first place, and it is forever: Once that first
15 400 plus windmill goes up, it is over for good. We will
16 never ever be able to reclaim that spectacular view and
17 feeling, but more importantly, we will deprive our
18 children and future generations of the glory of this land
19 we love and treasure.

20 We urge you to do the right thing for the right
21 reasons and rather than making a business decision that
22 impacts the quality of desert life in Palm Springs, you
23 re-consider another location for the wind farm.

24 I understand business. I do not wish to deprive
25 the land owners of their rightful use of the land, but I

1 would urge them to think about our heritage and what we
2 have and enjoy now against ruining this great natural
3 resource for money.

4 There are many organizations and individual
5 buyers out there who would cherish ownership of this land.
6 And there are many other locations for wind farms in the
7 desert besides Snow Creek that would not impact in any
8 way, the residents and visitors to our beautiful desert.

9 Please make the right decision for our future
10 rather than the wrong decision for the moment. Think of
11 turning off Highway 111 and being greeted by dozens of
12 these industrial goliaths instead of what is there now.

13 Sincerely, Suzanne Somers & Alan Hamel.

14 And I have some comments: There are two
15 developments that pose a big threat to the Snow Creek
16 area. One is the Devers Palo Verde-2 power lines that
17 Southern California Edison wants to hang over Snow Creek
18 and the Western San Jacinto Mountains. The other, and
19 much bigger problem, is the 24-acre wind farm proposed for
20 the same area by windmill developers Bill and Brad Adams
21 and landowner Stephen Christensen. This is the same
22 general area where Christensen and Enron Wind wanted to
23 erect a wind farm in 2001.

24 It is abundantly evident if we look at the
25 landscape of the San Gorgonio Pass, especially the area

1 surrounding White Water Canyon, that the Riverside County
2 Board of supervisors has no reverence for our scenery, our
3 mountain views and our important recreational areas. Some
4 of the most important views in the Pass area of
5 Palm Springs between windy point and White Water Canyon
6 have been permanently desecrated by sky scraper high wind
7 energy towers. In September of this year, windmills that
8 rival the height of Casino Morongo at 411 ft. high were
9 approved by the county for the top of White Water Hill.

10 I spoke to a representative from White Water
11 Energy in October, 2004, regarding his company's plan for
12 a large scale windmill farm in the area between Snow Creek
13 Road and the Interstate 10 Freeway extending up the
14 western ridge line of the San Jacinto Mountains following
15 SCE's existing power lines. He seemed certain that the
16 Cavazon Ridge project would be approved after the Devers
17 Palo Verde-2 power lines were installed. He said he was
18 confident that the Riverside County Board of supervisors
19 would approve his plan because there --

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Are you getting close to the
21 end of your comments, please, sir?

22 MR. STARKS: Yes. If you want, I can just submit
23 this?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Yeah, in fact, I was going to
25 ask you if you could submit those comment --

1 MR. STARKS: I will.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: -- letters, and that will help
3 the court reporter. And they will be in -- they will
4 appear in our report.

5 MR. STARKS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Next speaker, please?

7 MR. CAREY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My
8 name is Robert Carey. I'm a new resident of Snow Creek.
9 I feel, on one hand, a little bit out of place because I
10 am a new resident; however, I've always been appreciative
11 of nature in general.

12 Last night I heard coyotes for the first time in
13 years. I lived in Washington State most of my life. We
14 used to see them all the time. And it gave me pause to
15 think about what could possibly change out there with the
16 different developments that I've heard about, and I just
17 wanted to come in this morning and urge you to vote
18 against any further development in the San Jacinto area.
19 That whole Snow Creek area is one of the most beautiful
20 areas that I've ever seen, and there's nothing like it and
21 as somebody said -- not to reiterate too much -- there's
22 enough windmills out here, and if anybody looks at the
23 facts, they really aren't doing much for what they are.
24 They are more of a tax shelter than anything, in my
25 opinion. So I just want to urge you to vote against it

1 and at least take as much time as you can to thoroughly
2 consider your decision.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you very much. I would
4 like to comment that this issue will not be coming before
5 this board for a vote of any kind, but we are taking and
6 gathering information this morning, and it will be on our
7 records.

8 Bob, did you have a comment?

9 MR. LYMAN: If there are comments you would like to
10 process and include in the public record for the County
11 processing, you can contact Jay Olivas at 863-7579, and
12 those will become a matter of the public record.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would just like to ask a
14 question, if I may. You described, certainly, the
15 overlays of different areas, and you went through it very
16 quickly. I was wondering if there is anywhere we can
17 access a specific diagram that shows those areas, what is
18 off limits, what is in the gray area, and what is open?

19 MR. FOOTE: I would be glad to discuss that with you
20 and provide you what you need. If you want to contact me
21 at the office, 251-4836. I appreciate that.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: It's the BLM phone number?

23 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you for your comments.
25 Next speaker.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you repeat the name and
2 number? Those in the back couldn't hear Jim.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We're having a difficult time
4 too, so the speakers will have to speak up. Oh, you
5 couldn't hear Jim. We'll have Jim stand up when he
6 speaks.

7 MR. FOOTE: To repeat that, if there are questions
8 about BLM's wind energy development policy in national
9 landscape conservation system units, please feel free to
10 call me at this office. My Number is 251-4836.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Okay. The next speaker,
12 please?

13 MS. ESPINOZA-EARLY: Good morning.
14 Veronica Espinoza-Early. I am a private resident of the
15 Santa Rosa Reservation. I'm also a tribal councilmember.
16 There are only, actually at this time, two concerns that I
17 would like to express, and one of them is the boundary
18 extension and the effects, how they would effect the
19 reservation, and I believe I can work that out -- or we
20 can work that out with communicating directly through you,
21 and also the second one is reestablishing communications
22 with the Santa Rosa Tribe. At some point we lost
23 communications, so I would like to have that done soon,
24 and I did receive the phone number, and address so we can
25 do that.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Great. We look forward to
2 that. Thank you. Thank you very much. Is there another
3 speaker? Yes, please?

4 MR. KING: Greetings. Thank you for having me here.
5 My name is Jamie King. I work as a reserve steward for
6 the James Reserve and also for the Oasis De La Oso. For
7 those of you who may not know where the Oasis De La Oso
8 is, it's at the terminus of Snow Creek up against the
9 national monument. I'll confess we recently learned about
10 the proposed windmill development. I do want to say, we
11 do have some initial concerns regarding direct and
12 indirect impacts on the biology, aesthetics, and access to
13 our reserve, so we look forward to getting more
14 information, and we hope the advisory committee will
15 consider these impacts in your future discussion. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. Next speaker,
18 please?

19 MS. STEWART: Good morning. My name is
20 Dana Stewart. I'm going to pass my business cards around.
21 We have been involved in ecodevelopment energy since 1989.
22 We were once proponents of windmills --

23 MR. MARCHAND: Who do you represent?

24 MS. STEWART: I represent a Chino Canyon organization
25 and the Palm Springs public counsel, which is seeking to

1 raise funds for legal and legislative protection of our
2 natural resources in this area. And I would like to let
3 you know that there are some big dangers, and actually, we
4 think that the windmills not only shouldn't be added to;
5 the ones we have should be dismantled.

6 I have one solar electrician that went out one
7 day to work on the windmills. He and the fellow he was
8 working for discovered a one-winged owl hopping around.
9 They killed it and buried it so they wouldn't have to
10 report it.

11 There are reams and reams of information here
12 about how these are killer windmills that are destroying
13 the balance of nature. They're killing our predator
14 birds. We're having rodent infestations that carry West
15 Nile Virus -- I mean Hanta Virus. It was proven in some
16 studies that one windmill can kill 3,000 bats a night.
17 They eat the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus. And
18 we are also kicking up the dust, the nano particles that
19 are polluting our air, and they also run with oil that
20 drips into our aquifer and contaminates the aquifer.

21 There are so many environmental violations of
22 these windmills that to even think about adding some is
23 beyond my understanding. If you do not have this
24 information, I would like a full roster from you so that
25 Les Starks, who has most of the information on this, can

1 send all of you the studies that have been done for years
2 and years and years on the damage that windmills cause.

3 They are a poor design, they are a left over
4 Enron boondoggle. Why we are dealing with the largest
5 corporate crook in America still to this day is beyond my
6 grasp. We benefit from none of it. We have to look at it
7 and destroy our natural resources in doing it, so I'm very
8 much opposed to anymore windmills at all, and also to
9 start thinking about dismantling the ones we have, which
10 are killer windmills.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. Next speaker.

12 MR. INGRAM: Joe Ingram, I live in Santa Rosa and
13 San Jacinto National monument. I would like to bring up a
14 point that I'm still very concerned about the way
15 information -- about what the monument powers to be are
16 doing, and I still don't understand what is being done or
17 who's making decisions or where we're going with whatever
18 agenda, whoever has -- and that's number one.

19 Number two: I would like a public statement of
20 what happened to Danella George and what her status is now
21 and what was done to her. Publicly -- I want it in
22 writing and to read it in the paper or in some kind of
23 communication. That's number two.

24 I'm very, very unhappy with the way this is
25 proceeding and the way it's going and I -- you know me.

1 I've been to most of the meetings. I don't understand it.

2 I just don't understand it.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you for your comments
4 this morning. Next speaker, please.

5 MR. KING: Yeah. Hi. Gabriel King. I have a web
6 site, Friends of Desert Hot Springs dot com, and if
7 anybody wants to have a clearinghouse of any ideas, your
8 links, your reports, I would be more than willing to
9 create a page and put them all on there.

10 And anybody who's interested in the windmill
11 issue, one way or the other, can go to that site and click
12 on the links that you provide and look at all this
13 information, and that will help all of us make a better
14 determination and a better decision relative to the
15 windmills. You, Madam Chairman, stated that you thought
16 that if we had maybe two speakers that that would be even
17 more delightful. Well, I, as a constitutionalist, believe
18 in what our founding fathers believed in, which is that we
19 don't really have a democracy. We have what's known as
20 representative democracy. And being a representative
21 democracy, that means we elect people that represent us.
22 So as far as I'm concerned, personally -- this might be
23 different than your view -- the fact that we have more
24 than two people up here, to me, is even more delightful,
25 so I'm just saying that I urge you guys to exercise

1 caution.

2 I'm very glad to hear that the windmills don't
3 go on national monuments. Now I understand why the
4 Sierra Club supports windmills, because I know that if we
5 were to stick a windmill on top of Mount Whitney or on top
6 of the half dome -- it's a very windy place. I've been to
7 both places, excellent place for a windmill to -- I don't
8 know if they produce power -- but to turn and look
9 beautiful. But I'm glad that they're not allowed up
10 there, but now I'm understanding more of why the
11 Sierra Club Conservation is pro-windmill, so I'm just
12 wondering your opinion on that.

13 But anyhow, I offer that Friends of
14 Desert Hot Springs has a reputation of always being in
15 trouble, and I try to maintain that, so if I can get all
16 the information, and I'll stick it on a web page for you
17 guys, and then we'll support the thing.

18 And a representative democracy is that we have
19 people like you. Too bad we don't have more people like
20 you because a lot of things happen that shouldn't happen.

21 I also think that some of the windmill interests
22 donate large amounts of money to some of our supervisors,
23 and I think that's also relevant to the issue at hand and
24 I think that all this information -- everything -- all of
25 this information needs to be brought forth so that all of

1 us can make informed decisions, not decisions based on
2 what I think or you think, because, you know, who's to say
3 who's right or wrong here. So I'll just offer that. And
4 thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you for your comments,
6 Mr. King. And to my comment, if you will recall, I asked
7 that folks who wish to speak form a line in the back of
8 three people; two people is all that stood up. I'm
9 certainly glad that the rest of you that are here this
10 morning are here to speak. Next speaker, please?

11 MR. CURLEY: My name is Terri Curley. I'm a resident
12 of Snow Creek. I was just informed. I received an
13 e-mail. I'm not quite sure what this committee does,
14 what, you know, impact you will have on whether or not
15 windmills are placed out in the area of where I live, and
16 before I leave here today, I hope I find out what just, in
17 fact, you will do -- if, in fact, you advise someone, if
18 you make comments to whomever, if you have any impact on
19 whether or not those windmills are going to go in out
20 there.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I will have Mr. Foote address
22 that again. I'll have him stand up in case you were not
23 able to hear his comments earlier. I will have him do
24 that again. That was the end of your comments then?

25 MR. CURLEY: Yes, it was.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: All right. Thank you.
2 Anybody else? Anyone else wishing to speak on the
3 windmill issue or any other issue? With that, I will ask
4 Mr. Foote to stand up and repeat what he indicated
5 earlier.

6 MR. FOOTE: I think it is good to clarify this issue
7 as to windmill development within a national monument.
8 The policy I referred to before, BLM policy that prohibits
9 windmill development in national landscaped conservation
10 units, does apply only to the federal lands. It does not
11 apply to private lands.

12 The legislation establishing the monument is
13 very clear that the monument is comprised of the federal
14 lands, the BLM and Forest Service lands, and we do not
15 have jurisdiction over the private lands. Those are
16 private land issues.

17 In terms of windmill development where you're
18 looking at, in your Snow Creek, that is the County
19 jurisdiction, and the County will make a decision on that.

20 With regard to the Monument Advisory Committee
21 role, the role is to advise the federal agencies on
22 management actions in the monument that pertain to the
23 federal lands.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Please, you have a question?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I ask, so does that mean

1 that basically you're just telling us that you have no say
2 over what we're all here for? Clarify that?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: As I would understand, from
4 what Mr. Foote said, we have a commitment to the law. And
5 the law says federal land in the monument will not have
6 windmills, but not private land.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So just to clarify a little
8 bit more, is that a yes to my question?

9 MR. CRITES: Let me try another piece of it. The law
10 that Congresswoman Bono and Senator Feinstein had went
11 through congress, created this national monument, created
12 an advisory committee to advise US Forest Service and
13 Bureau of Land Management on how to manage these lands
14 about not quite around 400,000 acres. The jurisdiction of
15 this body is limited to commenting to them about those
16 lands that are owned by the federal government, period.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand. So then, all
18 the windmills that we're worried about that are going to
19 be placed on public lands -- I mean private lands --

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We have nothing.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: None of your business?

22 MR. CRITES: They're outside of our purview by law.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Basically that's a yes. Thank
24 you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: However, it is important for

1 you to note that the board is made up of representatives
2 from various agencies and various cities; although, they
3 don't have to be city-elected personnel. And one of the
4 representatives here this morning is from the County,
5 Mr. Lyman, who spoke earlier, and has indicated the
6 appropriate place for your comments that would go to the
7 County. If you would like to have Mr. Lyman repeat that
8 -- Bob, would you please do so?

9 MR. LYMAN: Yes. Any comments regarding this wind
10 energy conservation system, please direct them to
11 Jay Olivas --

12 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: They would like you to stand,
13 please.

14 MR. LYMAN: Any comments, regarding this wind energy
15 conservation system case, go to Jay Olivas, O-l-i-v-a-s.
16 He can be reached at 863-7579. E-mail -- I'm trying to
17 remember. If you will send it to me, I will get it to
18 Jay. My e-mail is B, Lyman, L-y-m-a-n at r-c-t-l-m-a dot
19 org. I have several cards.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Give me just a second. Okay.
21 I think we might have some additional speakers. Would you
22 come in and line up here in the front so that I can see
23 that there are speakers who want to speak? You're
24 disappearing on me.

25 MS. ABSHER: I just have a question --

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: You have a question.

2 MS. ABSHER: Regarding --

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: What is your name, please?

4 MS. ABSHER: Ellen Absher. I'm a state park
5 interpreter for California state parks. I understand the
6 national monument responsibilities. Is the private
7 property, on which they want to put the windmills, within
8 the national monument boundary?

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: There is private property
10 within the boundaries.

11 MS. ABSHER: Is this private property within the
12 boundary?

13 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I'm not sure where all of
14 these windmills are being proposed, but I'm getting yeses
15 over here, and it is on our agenda for discussion later by
16 another member of the advisory committee, so this will be
17 coming up at a later point, and I think it's probably
18 inappropriate to move that forward, don't you? Yeah,
19 because our agenda has to be printed in the federal
20 register, so what it says, we need to do on that timeline.
21 So I can't move this agenda item up.

22 MR. CRITES: You can move that forward.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: All right. I'm getting
24 conflicting information, and if there's no problem, Jeff,
25 I think you would probably be just as comfortable moving

1 it forward at this point?

2 MR. MARCHAND: Do we need a motion?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I don't think we need a motion
4 on it, but let me find it. Okay. At this point, we will
5 move forward the discussion scheduled for 10:00, and this
6 is the proposed windmill project near Snow Creek Village,
7 and it was asked to be put on the agenda by Jeff Morgan
8 who is a member of the MAC. Jeff, please?

9 MR. MORGAN: Thank you very much. A couple
10 comments: The reason I put this on the agenda is that
11 even though this is private land within the monument, it
12 is not down on the flat, most of the critical point of it.
13 It comes up a feature of rock called Fingles Finger, which
14 is a famous landmark, which is down at about a thousand
15 feet altitude. The windmills will then proceed up the
16 ridge through Section 17, will cross Intersection 19, and
17 then go back down into Intersection 13.

18 The height of these windmills -- the bases of
19 them will be at 4,000 feet well up in the monument.
20 That's 4,000 feet up the north face of San Jacinto. To
21 get them up there, they would have to build a road. These
22 are big windmills. You can't build a ten-foot road to get
23 up there. You will be building a 40-foot wide road.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We couldn't hear you.

25 MR. MORGAN: I'm sorry. I said to bring these

1 windmills up to the 4,000 foot level, they will have to
2 build a road. A road up the north face of San Jacinto to
3 the 4,000 foot level is not in the best interest of the
4 monument. It's a heavily wooded area. It brings fire
5 danger well within the national monument, and even though
6 it's on private land, it is an adjacent use to the
7 national monument, and I believe we should be able to
8 counsel the County that this -- individually counsel the
9 County that you may think it's a good idea or you may not,
10 but I certainly do not think it's a good idea.

11 Someone brought up a thing about birds earlier.
12 The bird study that has been made about windmills was so
13 flawed, the study itself stated that it should not be used
14 as a basis for windmill construction. It recommends that
15 the new study be done before any windmills are built, and
16 no study has been done.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you speak up, sir?

18 MR. MORGAN: No study has been done. The original
19 study was a short term -- visited the site twice. It's
20 very flawed.

21 So it will be, you know, not a good adjacent use
22 for the national monument. And I have a map that shows
23 roughly the boundaries of the project, and you can see
24 where it goes. It goes to this highest point, the far
25 southwest corner of Section 19, and I can pass that around

1 if people want to look at it.

2 MR. CURLEY: Would it be possible to get a copy?

3 MR. MORGAN: It's going to be passed around. That's
4 just the boundaries of the project.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: All of these things are
6 available through Riverside County Planning Department.
7 This is where the material currently is, and I'm sure if
8 you access the information that Bob passed onto you this
9 morning, you can get a copy of that information. Buford?

10 MR. CRITES: Just as a notation, monument legislation
11 -- right or wrong -- was very specific about not having
12 issues about what private lands next door do. I'm just
13 saying -- I'm not arguing that was a good decision or a
14 bad decision, but every person seated at this table may,
15 within their private capacity, comment to the County on
16 the wisdom or lack of wisdom of this project, while we,
17 certainly as individuals, have every right to make said
18 comments, whatever they happen to be.

19 MR. MORGAN: I think I iterated that a little
20 earlier. Just a quick informational item: The name of
21 this project is WECS 120, W-e-c-s 120. It's on a fast
22 track process through the County; in other words, they're
23 going to try and hurry it up.

24 MR. SERVICE: It only takes three years?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is it called?

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: W-e-c-s?

2 MR. MARCHAND: Whiskey, Echo, Charlie, Sierra.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: You got it -- 120.

4 MR. MORGAN: And it's on a fast track through the
5 County right now and in the scoping period, as far as I
6 know.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was that last word? From
8 the what period?

9 MR. MORGAN: Scoping. And it's seeking comments
10 prior to preparing the EIR.

11 MR. CRITES: The Environmental Impact Report.

12 MR. MORGAN: Right. So now is the time to make your
13 voices heard. Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Maybe -- if Bob doesn't feel
15 like he's being put on the spot -- maybe Bob could
16 enlighten you folks a little bit on the process, the
17 planning process. Are all of the meetings being held in
18 Riverside?

19 MR. LYMAN: The process -- the initial review goes
20 through DRT. It's the Director's Review Team. It goes
21 through a process where all the agencies that are involved
22 will sit, put comments into the case.

23 As Jeff indicated, it is currently going through
24 a scoping program. Once it gets to that point, a draft
25 EIR will be put out. There's a period of time that it

1 goes through the state clearinghouse and a 90-day comment
2 period.

3 Any comments received on the EIR have to be
4 addressed in the final version of the Environmental Impact
5 Report.

6 Also, the project goes to the planning
7 commission, which will meet in La Quinta. This project, I
8 would guess, is a minimum of eight months out,
9 fast-tracked or not, depending on how fast the draft EIR
10 hits. Once that happens, it goes to the planning
11 commission, all comments are heard, addressed at that
12 point, and after that, it goes to the board of supervisors
13 for approval.

14 MR. CRITES: For action?

15 MR. LYMAN: For action, depending on where it is, and
16 the elected can set it for hearing.

17 MR. CRITES: It's for action, not approval?

18 MR. LYMAN: Right. But they can set it for hearing.

19 Yes, ma'am?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I want to clarify. Is there a
21 public hearing at the declaration stage?

22 MR. LYMAN: The NOP people go out, and anybody can
23 respond.

24 MR. MORGAN: The Notice Of Preparation went out about
25 a week ago.

1 MR. LYMAN: If you have any questions, I did put my
2 cards out, and I will respond to those in response to the
3 appropriate things. The only thing that I ask is that
4 when you do put any comments in, keep them fairly succinct
5 because the document gets really large. If it gets this
6 way, people tend to look at it and say oh, no. Keep them
7 succinct. Address the points that you want to address.
8 If it's height of the structure, environmental
9 constraints, any those type of things.

10 And you have access to my office. I'm an
11 administrator, and I direct the process. We have on the
12 other side of the freeway -- I will give you this -- a
13 very vocal group that I spend a great deal of time with.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Come forward, please.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why is this on the fast track?
16 Why would this be put on the fast track? Why would a fast
17 decision have to be made on this?

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We don't have the answer to
19 that here.

20 MR. LYMAN: You can speak to me afterward.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We don't have the answer to
22 that here. Okay. With that, we are going to move on in
23 our agenda; however, I'm going to take just a brief second
24 to go backward. I was extremely remiss in not thanking
25 Mr. Service for arranging the opportunity for us to have

1 our meeting at the top of the tram today, and we had
2 breakfast, and in my five years on this commission, we've
3 never had breakfast, so I'm assuming that the lunch will
4 be equally as good, and I thank you and the rest of --

5 MR. CRITES: That was an early lunch.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: That was an early lunch? That
7 was not an early lunch. But I thank you very much for the
8 opportunity to come up here. One of our concerns in
9 coming up here was to make sure that the MAC did access
10 something that is within the monument and have that
11 understanding and to be able to forward the monument's
12 concerns and our management and what we are able to deal
13 with to the tram, kind of get a higher profile between the
14 two of us, and I thank you very much for that. Oh, we've
15 got another speaker. Thank you. And then we're moving
16 on.

17 MR. RANK: Good morning. My name is Dave rank, and
18 I'm a resident of Mission Lakes. It's above
19 Desert Hot Springs. I hope we're all enjoying our
20 breakfast in this beautiful -- all the serenity and all
21 the beautiful scenery we have here. And this is what
22 we're talking about right now: One of our greatest assets
23 is the beauty of the mountains. I know many, many people
24 within the realm of my -- that I do know that constantly
25 talk about the beauty of the mountains. I, for one, live

1 right across the street in Mission Lakes, and this is part
2 of my vista when I get up in the morning, and I look at
3 it. It's beautiful. I, for one, would kind of hate to
4 see that view interrupted by wind generators.

5 How does it affect us personally? What are
6 the trade-offs involved? What are we giving up? These
7 are things that we should consider before ramming this
8 through. There's also land use considerations that we
9 need to make regarding this as well.

10 You know I -- even though it's private property,
11 I could no more put a wind generator on my property. We
12 have height restrictions, we have the way our houses are
13 to be built, what color they are, what architecture
14 they're made out of. And when we come to a resource such
15 as these mountains, we should look at them very closely as
16 to how we address anything to change the environment.

17 Wind generators: Who do they benefit?
18 Investors, people who have more money than -- they're
19 trying to find places to get tax write-offs at the expense
20 of everybody who enjoys these mountains. People, we have
21 tourists. There's a huge amount of income that comes into
22 this valley, and you know what, when they come through
23 that pass, and they look at the generators, and when they
24 look at the mountains, they say well, at least these
25 haven't been touched. At least something has been left to

1 its natural beauty.

2 These mountains are irreplaceable. If you start
3 building roads to go up there and put generators up there
4 and all of this stuff, who does that benefit? It takes
5 away what we come here for, whether you're a resident or
6 whether you're a vacationer. We need to take a look at
7 what we're giving up and what we're getting out of it.
8 The few people that are going to make money out of this
9 deal, the investors, the road builders and all of that, at
10 the expense of what? This is something that needs to be
11 brought up. There's a trade-off in everything. So thank
12 you for listening to me.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. We have an
14 additional speaker. And then -- I'm sorry -- I did ask,
15 and we do need to move on, but we will allow your comment.

16 MS. STEWART: I do want people to take my card
17 because there are bits of information, and I also want to
18 see if there's a roster with information so that we can
19 get that?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Jim will be in touch with you.
21 I think he's already given you information on how to reach
22 him, but we also have a web site, so it will be on there.

23 MS. STEWART: Okay. Great. I just wanted to point
24 out that the New York Times at the beginning of this year
25 said that the buzz word of the year is ecotourism. We

1 have a billion dollar ecotourism industry in this valley
2 that I think will be seriously affected by this. Here is
3 also a large article by the National Taxpayer's Union and
4 the Taxpayer's Union Foundation Press -- tilting up
5 windmills an unwise tilt at windmills.

6 They are, again, summarizing studies of the
7 damage that windmills cause, and it's not just to our
8 scenery, but it's to our environment, the balance of
9 nature. And I think that we really need your input with
10 the County to let them know that -- before, White Water
11 Creek Canyon -- I know they fought it. There are only
12 twelve houses there. They had no chance against these big
13 corporate structures.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. Thank you. You
15 did have three minutes prior to this, so thank you very
16 much for your additional information. We're moving on.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. STEWART: Thank you, madam chairman.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you very much. And with
20 that, we will return to the agenda for the discussion item
21 regarding the fiscal year budget for our funding. And
22 Mr. Crites, this is your item.

23 MR. CRITES: The monument committee established a
24 subcommittee to look at issues regarding the charter and
25 looked at issues regarding how to utilize funding,

1 discretionary funding, for the next year.

2 If you have a document in front of you, there's
3 approximately \$250,000 from the federal budgetary process
4 primarily through the work of both the agencies and
5 Congresswoman Bono, and so here is -- at least from your
6 subcommittee -- and that's Jeff Morgan and Bill Havert and
7 Chair Henderson and myself -- how we would suggest that
8 the monument committee advise the federal agencies to
9 utilize those funds:

10 \$25,000 into trails, the \$10,000 -- part of the
11 process of fish and game and fish and wildlife looking at
12 opening more trails for recreational use on a year-round
13 basis was on the caveat that we would begin to do research
14 on impacts of recreation and sheep and compatibility or
15 lack thereof, and this is just a start on that process.
16 And by the way, there's an assumption here that there will
17 also be funds from US Fish and Wildlife Service for this
18 and potentially some funds from Coachella Association Of
19 Governments and other places.

20 Snow Creek Trailhead -- there's been a long time
21 issue out there about needing a trailhead for the
22 Pacific Crest Trail and issues of private property and
23 parking and so on, and the thought of the committee was
24 that this expenditure of \$5,000 would begin to get that
25 processed. And we do not have a current map of the

1 monument trail system. The one that we have is seven
2 years old, and a lot of changes have been made in terms of
3 usage patterns, and new trails have been added and so on.
4 And there's already a partnership, I believe -- Geary,
5 with the Wilderness Society -- for \$10,000 for mapping --
6 for a trail's map?

7 MR. HUND: Correct.

8 MR. CRITES: So they're willing to be a partner, and
9 we may also have some partnership monies to be able to put
10 together an opening map brochure.

11 The visitor center -- you'll notice some things are
12 funded. Monument Manager Foote suggested that, from his
13 perception, the need for an outdoor area for people to
14 gather and -- whether it's interpretive talks or various
15 things -- and so there's a \$50,000 allocation there for an
16 amphitheater.

17 The inside of the visitor center on Highway 74
18 has been remodeled, but one of the things that's really
19 needed are the interpretive panels of what's in the
20 monument, and so there are some funds for that.

21 There were \$2,000 noted there for fixing a
22 drop-off in the sidewalk; that's been fixed by simply
23 hauling a few loads of dirt and burying the darn sidewalk,
24 so for \$50 we saved \$2,000.

25 And we need to do a little trail connection from

1 the visitor center parking lot on over to what is called
2 the Randall Henderson Trail so that people can actually
3 have that while they're there on the one mile walk to see
4 some of, at least, the national monument, so that
5 completes that.

6 Santa Rosa Peak has been the subject of deny and
7 neglect for a long time, so rather than use specific
8 amounts, the money there is for campground improvements.
9 The picnic tables and benches and so on are -- those that
10 haven't been used for firewood probably should be. And we
11 need to do new work there. We need to resign yellow post
12 areas where you can have a campfire at certain times of
13 the year. There is a beginning of a problem along the
14 road with graffiti. And, obviously, the best way to fight
15 graffiti is get it out of there as quickly as possible.

16 And also, we need to look at an area somewhere
17 near the top of Santa Rosa Mountain for people to gather
18 should there ever be a fire on the mountain so that they
19 can be potentially helicoptered out. It's one road in;
20 one road out, 14 miles. And if we have a fire in the
21 summer when people are camping up there, we need a way to
22 access those folks and get them the heck out of there.

23 \$2,000 for the cultural resources, and Jim said
24 that was, in the last years, adequate for doing the
25 Ambassador Program?

1 MR. FOOTE: Site stewardship.

2 MR. CRITES: Site Stewardship Program, and we'll
3 continue that.

4 Interpretive and Signage up Highway 74, T1f
5 overlook. The Signage is old enough to where it's
6 actually fading it out. It can't be read. That needs
7 redoing. We have nothing in the -- or very little of the
8 US Forest Service Visitor Center in Idyllwild, and that is
9 a major portal to the monument, and this would give us the
10 opportunity to have materials and exhibits in Idyllwild
11 for the Forest Service letting people know. And a small
12 amount of -- \$5,000 for publications in combination with
13 the Friends Organization primarily to produce some
14 low-cost brochures on things you see in almost every
15 monument and park; for example, what are the birds that
16 you might find in this, what are the plant communities,
17 just those kinds of real obvious things that people want
18 to pull off a rack and look at when they're around. Some
19 of them may be just a simple little map for one local
20 trail, things of that nature.

21 And last, \$15,000 for invasive species, and that
22 should be tamarisk and other invasive species such as
23 fountain grass and such things to continue the work of
24 trying to keep that stuff out of the repairing areas or at
25 least minimize the damage from invasive species, which

1 comes out to what was \$239,000 is now 237,000; we've saved
2 our 2,000, so it leaves us about 13, - \$15,000 as a
3 reserve. That would be the recommendation to the
4 committee from the subcommittee.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Questions? Okay. We have a
6 clarification by Mr. Foote, please?

7 MR. FOOTE: Yeah. Just to clarify how these numbers
8 really came about too, we're anticipating funds. The
9 Mary Bono funds are through her effort in the amount of
10 approximately 500,000 for fiscal year 2007. We're hoping
11 that will happen. Right now we're under a continuing
12 resolution. We have no budget. That part is clear.
13 Nothing has come to us at this point.

14 The subcommittee asked me to provide a number
15 with them from the Mary Bono funds with which to work and
16 to look at how those funds might be allocated. Based on
17 how we spread FY 2006 funds, I gave them a figure of
18 250,000 to work with. The remaining 250,000 will be used
19 to also cover collateral duties and other operation costs
20 that keep our doors open.

21 But also with regard to the first point that
22 Buford was making relative to the research under the
23 trail's plan, we do anticipate making a larger commitment
24 than shown here to that project, and that would come from
25 the additional funds hopefully we receive when we get out

1 of our continuing resolution, and we actually get a
2 budget.

3 We do have a commitment to fund the research for
4 the trail's plan. We will act on that commitment to the
5 best we can, and that's probably about as good as we can
6 say for now because we don't have our figures.

7 I just want to provide that little clarification
8 just because it did come up after this table was
9 distributed to certain members of the Monument Advisory
10 Committee.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: And I do appreciate those
12 comments. Barbara?

13 MS. GONZALEZ-LYONS: Barbara Lyons. I want to make
14 sure, though, too when we're working with these different
15 things like the brochures and the trails and stuff that we
16 also work with different tribes that may be impacted by
17 those, by their culture areas. Our plan does say that.
18 And we need to watch out for those and also for the native
19 plant species.

20 MR. FOOTE: Yes. Thank you, Barbara. We do work
21 with, certainly, all our partners, and we do that also in
22 terms of the funding issues. We are working particularly
23 closely or hope to work closely with the tribe on the
24 Cahuilla Interpretation project with the new signage. The
25 tribe was very much involved in the first go-around in

1 that, and we hope the tribe will continue to be involved.

2 Also in terms of showing how things will change
3 and budget shift and our need to reevaluate as time goes
4 on, we are anticipating another \$17,000 to fund the
5 trail's plan in response to one of our requests through
6 the normal budget process, our BPS system in BLM. We have
7 an indication from the state office, we will receive that
8 additional funding. So that does give us additional
9 flexibility to move money. We always look at that as a
10 moving target and reevaluate as the year goes on.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Barbara?

12 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: But I'm not talking about all
13 kinds. I mean, we do have Santa Rosa, we have Ramona, we
14 have Cahuilla up there, but Santa Rosa is mostly impacted,
15 so I do have their address to give to you so that you can
16 contact them dealing with the mapping because the map --
17 you know, I don't want that impacting them where we
18 shouldn't be impacting. So I just want to make sure we
19 keep on track on that.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Good. That sounds good.
21 Further comments? I would like to comment that, having
22 been through some prior budget processes that took months
23 and was exact, which nothing can be, I believe that this
24 process was, if you will, a little -- kind of priority
25 setting too.

1 We don't know the exact amount of money that
2 we're going to have, but if we get X, then we see Y and Z
3 as a way to deal with those funds. And as Jim just
4 indicated, there's already some flexibility. We are
5 expecting rent monies to come in. That could allow some
6 of these line items to shift, and that's, I think, what
7 will be important is that we review this maybe mid-year
8 and see how much, you know, we can shift some of those
9 priorities. So I certainly appreciated the process.

10 My one additional comment and I -- it may seem
11 minor, but I very strongly oppose the term "amphitheater,"
12 and I think that we should change that because perception
13 is all in the mind. And you say amphitheater, and the
14 public is going to think that we're out there building
15 what I see as an amphitheater, and that's not exactly what
16 we're doing.

17 We're doing an outdoor education center, an
18 ODEC. So I think it's important that we do look at
19 language because we don't want to spend half our time
20 explaining that we aren't building an amphitheater.

21 MS. WADE-EVANS: I just want to thank the steering
22 committee because I've only been involved for the last 11
23 months with the advisory committee, but this helps the
24 agencies feel like we're full fledged partners and that
25 we're all working on the same priorities, and I really

1 appreciate that.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. Thank you.

3 MR. MARCHAND: I also would like to commend the
4 committee, having been through the budget process in my
5 own city where it is like gnashing of teeth, and it's a
6 very cogent and elusive expedition, and I thank the
7 committee for that. I also ask the madam chairwoman if
8 you're ready for a motion at this time?

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any further comments? I think
10 somebody did have -- standing up in the back -- is that
11 where you were referring to?

12 Did you have a comment on the budget? No, okay.
13 Any further comments? I believe we have a motion.

14 MR. MARCHAND: Move to approve.

15 MR. SERVICE: Second.

16 MR. BROCKMAN: Does your motion include a change of
17 the word "amphitheater."

18 MR. CRITES: We suggested that, staff, several times
19 already.

20 MR. SERVICE: Outdoor education center.

21 JEFF MORGAN: I'll second that.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We have a motion and a second
23 on the floor. All those in favor indicate by saying aye?

24 (Chorus of ayes)

25 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any opposed or any

1 abstentions? That motion is adopted. Thank you very
2 much. And I certainly appreciate the process this time.

3 Okay. We are going to do another discussion change,
4 agenda change, and it's a little bit because of having got
5 off balance this morning with the time frame involved.
6 But we -- Ric, this is discussion involving the monument
7 recognition here at the tram. Would you like to introduce
8 this item?

9 MR. SERVICE: Thank you. Ric Service, chairman of
10 Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. We have with us today one of
11 the senior vice presidents of the tramway,
12 Mr. Taz zakotnik. He's going to give you an overview of
13 how our tram operates as an entity, as an actual physical
14 entity.

15 Before he does that, I'm going to make a comment
16 to you that the tramway is the number one gateway to the
17 monument for the vast majority of the visitors to the
18 monument. It doesn't mean that you can't approach the
19 monument from many other places. It just means the tram
20 happens to be the number one gateway. We service
21 approximately 400 paid riderships a year -- excuse me --
22 400,000, a slight difference, and that number, of course,
23 has been growing over the years. So, Taz, why don't you
24 come up and tell us about how the whole place actually
25 operates and some of the issues that we're faced with on a

1 regular basis. Stand up here.

2 MR. ZAKOTNIK: Hi. My name Terri Zakotnik, and I'm
3 vice president of tramway systems. First of all, I would
4 like to welcome you all to the tramway. We're happy to
5 have you here. The original tramway was completed in 1963
6 and operated until June of 2000.

7 In June of 2000, the tramway itself was rebuilt,
8 which included new boarding/deboarding areas, new tower
9 tops, new drive equipment, new carriers, cabins, obviously
10 the new rotating cabin that we're very proud of and -- one
11 of three in the world -- new control systems, some new
12 cables, and a freight handling system.

13 September 1st, 2000 -- excuse me -- since
14 September 1st, 2000, the tramway has operated
15 approximately 16,000 hours, 97,000 trips back and forth to
16 the mountain station. So as Mr. Service pointed out,
17 we're an excellent means of transportation and
18 accessibility to the beautiful surroundings here.

19 One of the things involved in the operation of
20 the tramway itself is obviously maintaining it, keeping it
21 up to its standard of running every day safely, obviously,
22 reliably, etcetera. This requires, behind the scenes,
23 about two and a half hours of maintenance on the tramway
24 for every hour that it operates, which is fairly sizable.

25 This year we reached a benchmark in magnitude of

1 maintenance involving the tramway with three major
2 projects that will coincide on a six-year cycle as we
3 progress along; one of which was replacement of the ship
4 bearings and the hull weight/counterweight wheel, which
5 you can see through the windows of the waiting room --
6 that was about 460 man-hours of work involved -- exchange
7 of the Carriage Number 1, which is the assembly that the
8 tram car rides on, cables that brings you up here -- and
9 that was about 420 man-hours -- and also changing and
10 replacing of one cable, which is about 1200 man-hours of
11 work.

12 I have a few pictures here that I won't spend a
13 lot of time explaining, but I'll pass around. It shows
14 you the magnitude of the three jobs involved.

15 One of particular interest is this one, one of
16 the pulling cables, the one we replaced. This happened as
17 a result of dissipating the stored energy in that cable
18 that was going up and down, back and forth, 97,000 times
19 over the last six years. So there's a tremendous amount
20 of energy that's involved in just one cable of the many
21 that the tramway operates with.

22 If you have any questions, please feel free to
23 ask or catch me later, and I thank you for your time.
24 Circulate these around.

25 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Are there any questions? Taz,

1 I didn't get your last name.

2 MR. ZAKOTNIK: Would you like me to spell that?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I think the court reporter
4 would like you to spell that.

5 MR. ZAKOTNIK: Z-a-k-o-t-n-i-k.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you.

7 MR. ZAKOTNIK: That's why they call me Taz.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're not going to hear this
9 data when we go down, are we?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: No. No. We'll get the same
11 going down as we got going up. Thank you, Taz. Thank you
12 for taking your time this morning to join us. Give me a
13 second here to catch up where we are. If we can keep
14 going backwards, we're now at the discussion on the Bono
15 legislation, and, Geary, were you going to handle this?

16 MR. HUND: Yes.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Yes, please. Geary Hund.

18 MR. FOOTE: Five minutes gets this up to speed again.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: You want to take a five-minute
20 recess?

21 MR. FOOTE: Please.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: We need a five-minute recess
23 to get the equipment heated up, I guess.

24 (A recess was taken.)

25 MR. HUND: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the

1 Monument Advisory Committee. I really appreciate the
2 opportunity to be here to speak to you about H.R. 6270,
3 the California Deserts and Mountains Heritage Act. And
4 first let me introduce myself for those of you that don't
5 already know me: My name is Geary Hund, and I'm with a
6 nationwide conservation group called the
7 Wilderness Society, so you can kind of get an idea of what
8 we're interested in. We're also interested in other wild
9 places where nature is still -- natural cultural features
10 are still present and provide a benefit both to wildlife
11 and to human beings.

12 Today I'm here representing the California Wild
13 Heritage Campaign. Now, I know there's wild in both of
14 the titles there, but basically the Wilderness Society is
15 part of a larger coalition of groups, conservation groups,
16 and other groups, that are dedicated to preserving wild
17 places in California. And I spend about 25 percent of my
18 time right now with the California Wild Heritage Campaign,
19 working toward the passage of the California Desert and
20 Mountains Heritage Act.

21 Next slide, please. This legislation was
22 introduced by Congresswoman Mary Bono on September 29th,
23 2006, so it is current federal legislation, but it hasn't
24 passed yet. It's for land in Riverside County. It would
25 designate approximately 126,000 acres of new wilderness in

1 six areas. It would designate 31 miles of wild and scenic
2 rivers, remember, in Riverside County, not up in the
3 Sierras somewhere.

4 I believe if the legislation passes, it would be
5 the first wild and scenic rivers in Southern California.
6 It would add approximately 3600 acres to this fantastic
7 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

8 Go ahead. I apologize. I'm passing one single
9 copy of the map that's up here that shows all of the areas
10 in the proposal, around to the audience. Normally, when
11 I'd come to the MAC meetings, there weren't as many public
12 members in attendance, so I would have brought more
13 copies; however, you're welcome to contact me later and
14 give me your e-mail address or contact information, and I
15 will give you a copy of this map. The MAC members should
16 have a copy, or you'll be getting one in a moment that
17 I'll be passing around.

18 There are a number of different areas. I'll
19 just point to them very quickly. This is the western end
20 of Riverside County. Out here, this is Congresswoman
21 Bono's district with the gray lines. Just some landmarks.
22 Joshua Tree National Park, and here is the -- you know,
23 it's hard to see, but here is the outline of the national
24 monument.

25 And the areas outlined in red are proposed

1 wilderness areas, and the blue lines are proposed wild and
2 scenic rivers. So you can see the proposals stretch from
3 just east of Temecula in the Anza valley and Aguanga area,
4 Cahuilla Mountain and South Fork of the San Jacinto River
5 through the monument all the way over to the Joshua Tree
6 National Park where there's proposed wilderness.

7 Next. This is a little bit closer view of the
8 South Fork San Jacinto proposed area. This is Hemet right
9 here, and Idyllwild right here, to give people
10 perspective. This is the Anza valley, and it doesn't show
11 the tribal land on this particular map, but the Cahuilla
12 Indian Reservation comes right up to the -- close to the
13 boundary of the proposed Cahuilla wilderness area.

14 Next. The South Fork San Jacinto proposed
15 wilderness area. You can see the beautiful trees down in
16 the canyon and that's down in the canyon bottom.

17 Go ahead. It's proposed 21,760 acres. It's
18 managed by the San Bernardino National Forest. We have
19 representatives for the forest here today. Rich stream
20 side forest on the South Fork of the San Jacinto River.
21 This is all below Lake Hemet. And we have already met
22 with the Hemet Water District to talk about and address
23 their concerns, and we believe we have agreement on this
24 proposal with the water district. It's an area very high
25 in biological diversity.

1 Next. Cahuilla Mountain proposed wilderness.
2 What's interesting in this photograph -- I took this
3 photograph, and when you hike up to the Mountaintop on
4 Cahuilla, if you haven't been there before, it's a
5 beautiful chaparral. And then up on top of the mountain
6 and in the drainages is fantastic oak and pine forest.
7 And this is looking out across the Anza valley to the
8 Beauty Mountain's proposed wilderness area, which is
9 managed by the BLM.

10 Okay. Next, the Cahuilla Mountain proposal is
11 7,131 acres managed by the national forest. Chaparral oak
12 and pine woodland and drainage and upper elevation forest,
13 that should say. I was working on this until about 8:00
14 last night. I'll try make up for anything I left out. It
15 offers spectacular views of San Jacinto Peak,
16 Palomar Mountain, Beauty Mountain and the vast Desert
17 landscape to the southeast.

18 If you haven't been up there, I highly recommend
19 you take a hike up to the top of Cahuilla Mountain. It's
20 a spectacular area with a deep cultural history and
21 wonderful natural history. It's home to numerous wildlife
22 species, and I listed a few of the many there, including
23 both -- two species of the three species of quail that we
24 have in Southern California.

25 Next. Beauty Mountain proposed wilderness

1 16,700 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It
2 includes Million Dollar Spring, which is considered one of
3 the most pristine watersheds in southwestern California.
4 It's been identified as an important wildlife core reserve
5 and a habitat linkage. The multiple species plans for
6 Riverside County and San Diego County show this as an
7 important area, a core area, and they're working to link
8 the Beauty Mountain to Cahuilla Mountain through land
9 acquisitions on the west part of the Anza valley. It
10 contains fascinating rock formations. It's topped by the
11 majestic 5,548 Beauty Mountain itself. Agua Tibia
12 proposed addition, 1950 acres.

13 Now, let me speak to that a little bit. The
14 Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia areas straddle two
15 congressional districts: Darryl Isis' district and
16 Representative Bono's district. It's our hope that when
17 this bill is reintroduced in the next congress coming up
18 after the first of the year, that we will be able to get
19 Congressman Isis to join in a proposal to protect the
20 entire area.

21 It will be more difficult to manage for the
22 Forest Service and the BLM if you're not managing this
23 entire -- in terms of out on the land, it's one landscape.
24 It happens to be in two districts, so we hope to work out
25 protection of both areas.

1 The Agua Tibia is a proposed addition.
2 There's already wilderness there, and it's managed by the
3 Cleveland National Forest, and there's some small parcels
4 managed by Bureau of Land Management. The boundaries of
5 our proposal are exactly the same as those recommended by
6 the Forest Service.

7 And although we haven't had a chance to
8 communicate all of the adjustments that we have made, we
9 did meet with the Forest Service, and one of the big
10 concerns in this area is fire management, and we have
11 incorporated a number of adjustments to the boundaries to
12 make sure that there's defensible space and field breaks,
13 and we'll be communicating that shortly to the Forest
14 Service.

15 It's a haven for Rosy Boa, coast horned lizard
16 and other sensitive species. You start to get a costal
17 influence in the Agua Tibia, and you see some of those
18 rare coastal species.

19 Next. Joshua Tree National Park proposed
20 wilderness additions. I had the great privilege of
21 touring the back country roads of Joshua Tree recently to
22 look at these proposed additions. The main Jeep trails
23 are cherished, meaning they were left out of the proposal.
24 The vehicles will still be able to drive into the back
25 country and, you know, recreational vehicles will be able

1 to access these areas from those park roads. There are no
2 road closures, but these vast roadless landscapes within
3 the park will be protected by wilderness designation.

4 Managed by the national park service, 78,150
5 acres. Now, note that we have two different amounts to
6 the right there. 37,050 acres would be outright
7 designation of wilderness. A number of the areas we're
8 proposing with the Joshua Tree National Park have a
9 checkerboard of every other section of land. It looks
10 just like a checkerboard on a map.

11 Every other section of land is privately owned
12 or was privately owned. There are conservancies that are
13 actively acquiring land from willing sellers, and as those
14 private lands get acquired, then the National Park Service
15 will be able to post the notice in the federal register
16 and then designate those areas as wilderness without going
17 back to legislation again.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Move it from one to the other?

19 MR. HUND: Right. Right. So the park was then very
20 concerned about designating those checkerboard lands as
21 wilderness now until and at such time as the private lands
22 adjacent to them are acquired. If they're not, then it
23 would not become wilderness.

24 Next. Wilderness and potential wilderness. I
25 just explained that.

1 Next. So the proposal includes large areas of
2 low desert in the southern end of the park including the
3 Cottonwood Mountains and Pinkham Wash areas. The
4 Pinkham Wash jeep trail would stay open.

5 This shows the proposal in a little more detail.
6 Again, outlined in red are the areas that would be added
7 to wilderness within the park. We do have the support of
8 the park superintendent for this plan.

9 Next. Wild and scenic rivers. This is a
10 picture of the North Fork of the San Jacinto River. Close
11 to my heart, being an Idyllwild resident.

12 Next. This shows the different proposed wild
13 and scenic rivers. Again, this is Bautista Creek. Again,
14 here is the Hemet area, the Idyllwild area. Here is the
15 North Fork of the San Jacinto River, and then
16 Fuller Mill Creek is also in there. It's kind of a
17 complex -- Fuller Mill -- which is a tributary of the
18 North Fork.

19 And Palm Canyon Creek -- the Palm Canyon Creek
20 proposal, as in the current legislation, only includes the
21 Forest Service lands. It does not include the BLM section
22 north of the Forest Service lands; although, that section
23 has been determined to be eligible for potential
24 designation as a wild and scenic river. Even though
25 ultimately that would be a great thing, there were still

1 some outstanding issues with that because that has also
2 been -- it's also in a potential land transfer plan with
3 the Agua Caliente tribe, and we have not had a chance to
4 meet with the tribe and the BLM sufficiently to determine
5 if that could ultimately be part of the legislation or
6 not, so it is not in this current legislation.

7 Next. This shows you the river miles, and you
8 can see there are different classifications of wild,
9 scenic, and recreational. What that means is that when an
10 area is designated as wild and scenic river, depending on
11 the subclassification, there are different levels of use
12 that are allowed, and basically, it's a more protective
13 designation if it's wild and scenic or recreational.

14 The reason why sometimes these are broken up is
15 because there were communities, for example, within the
16 North Fork, and there are stream crossings where fire
17 roads cross the creek where it wouldn't have been
18 appropriate to make a wild designation. So this -- in
19 meeting with local interests and the agencies, what our
20 aim was was to make sure that we, you know, met the
21 practical concerns that needed to be met and didn't
22 designate something in an area that would not be
23 appropriate for the type of uses that are occurring there.

24 Okay. Next. Go ahead. The North Fork and
25 Fuller Mill Creek are managed by the San Bernardino

1 National Forest and also California State Parks. The
2 North Fork and its tributary, Fuller Mill Creek, provide
3 essential habitat for the Endangered Mountain
4 yellow-legged frog as well as sensitive species such as
5 the spotted owl, southern rubber boa, and San Bernardino
6 flying squirrel.

7 The Pacific Crest Trail and Southern Pines Trail
8 cross this area providing excellent hiking opportunities.
9 I know some of you on the MAC have hiked up there, and you
10 know exactly how wonderful the North Fork area is.

11 Next. Bautista Creek supports the largest
12 number of sensitive and endangered wild life species on
13 the San Bernardino National Forest. It's very rich in
14 biological diversity.

15 Next. The creek is home to species such as the
16 arroyo toad and the San Bernardino kangaroo rat and so on.

17 There are several documented native american
18 places named within the drainage; and in addition,
19 Bautista Creek was the route of the Anza Expedition in the
20 1770s.

21 Palm Canyon Creek, managed by the San Bernardino
22 National Forest. It's an important sanctuary for the
23 peninsula bighorn sheep. It supports the largest
24 California fan palm oasis in the United States. And it
25 has special significance to the Agua Caliente, with

1 evidence of occupation dating back at least 2000 years.

2 The monument additions. The Santa Rosa peak
3 area as you're driving down Highway 74 -- that was left
4 out of the original legislation. I've been meeting with
5 the Monument Advisory Committee and others, as have
6 members of the campaign, and there's a pretty strong
7 consensus that it would be good to put that area within
8 the monument, and that would help bring dollars for
9 management for greater attention for a very important
10 area. It includes the campground, Peak access road and
11 spring.

12 Snow Creek area is only 50 acres, but it's a
13 very, very important 50 acres because what it does is it
14 provides -- contributes to a linkage to the San Bernardino
15 Mountains for the exchange of wildlife between the two
16 mountain ranges and people too, for hiking. And even
17 though the Pacific Crest Trail isn't there, it's good to
18 have an actual public land and public linkage, and that's
19 what people are working toward in that area. And so a
20 local conservancy, the Friends of the Desert Mountains
21 has acquired the land and support the legislation, and we
22 would like to see that area become part of the monument to
23 ensure its long-term protection.

24 Other potential additions. I've been talking
25 with members of the committee here about other areas that

1 we might be able to add such as the Tahquitz Peak, which,
2 again, would encompass the fire lookout and provide money
3 for the maintenance of the trails and the lookout.

4 And I think Tahquitz Peak, in my view, is the
5 natural -- it's part of the ridge that divides the deserts
6 and the mountains. It just happens to turn and head out
7 to the west for a little ways, and so we hope in the next
8 round of legislation that the congresswoman will be
9 willing to entertain that and possibly some other
10 additions to protect some important cultural resources in
11 the monument.

12 Again, these would be -- we'd be looking at
13 areas where acquisition has occurred adjacent to the
14 monument, and it's now public or conservancy land, and
15 looping that into the umbrella of the monument.

16 Next. This shows the Santa Rosa Peak area.
17 Here is Highway 74 going down to the Desert Palm Canyon
18 over here. You can see kind of where it is next to the
19 existing monument boundary in red there.

20 Next. And then Snow Creek. It's really hard to
21 see. It's really tiny, but there it is. Here is the
22 monument boundary, and here is the beginning of the
23 San Bernardino Mountains.

24 Next. This shows the Tahquitz Peak area that we
25 would like to include, and here is the existing monument.

1 We've talked with the Forest Service and MAC members and
2 others about the possibility of including that in the
3 legislation. It's currently all wilderness in this area,
4 so here's Humber Park. That's a famous trailhead for the
5 -- going up the Devil's Slide Trail. Hopefully, it won't
6 be controversial, and we'll enjoy broad support.

7 Next. Just to give you an idea, there are a lot
8 of conceptions and misconceptions about wilderness
9 management, and I think it's important that people
10 understand that a wilderness overlay actually helps
11 protect the values that we all hold dear, and it still
12 provides for necessary management for existing activities
13 and access.

14 It's not meant to take away existing uses and
15 rights, but to protect the remaining primal landscape that
16 is in the particular area; for example, for fire
17 suppression, that's a big concern around here. And when
18 the Wilderness Act passed in 1964, they understood that
19 concern because it's a concern throughout the nation.

20 And the Wilderness Act allows firefighting in
21 the wilderness. It states such measures can be taken as
22 necessary in the control of fires and so on, and that can
23 include the use of mechanized equipment, building of fire
24 roads, fire towers, and fire breaks or fire suppression
25 facilities where necessary for fire control. Obviously,

1 that needs to be done thoughtfully only where it's
2 appropriate, but there are provisions for that.

3 In short, anything necessary for the protection
4 of public health or safety clearly is permissible. That's
5 in the act. I missed one of the quotation marks.

6 Federal legislation in 2000 added the following
7 provision: Nothing in this act or the Wilderness Act
8 precludes an agency from conducting fire management
9 operations including prescribed burning within the areas
10 designated as wilderness.

11 My organization supports and is working with the
12 Forest Service toward doing some thoughtful prescribed
13 burning, within the wilderness, that will restore natural
14 systems that have been modified by fire suppression and
15 other human activities over the years.

16 Next. Livestock grazing. Where it was
17 established prior to an area's designation as wilderness,
18 it's permitted to continue. And subsequent legislation
19 provided clarification stating that grazing activities
20 should not be curtailed or eliminated because lands are
21 included in the wilderness system.

22 Next. Managing fish and wildlife. I know I'm
23 returning short on time. I'll just say there are -- I'll
24 be glad to give you the information, but there are
25 provisions for allowing for the continued management and

1 necessary management of fish and wildlife, for example,
2 endangered species, and that can even include bringing
3 vehicles in, if necessary.

4 Protecting water and wilderness does not consume
5 it. What it does is it simply preserves natural flows.
6 Sometimes people think that water rights are potentially
7 jeopardized, but existing water rights aren't jeopardized.

8 Wilderness designation actually benefits
9 downstream water users because it limits opportunities for
10 water developers within the wilderness which is the
11 watershed that provides water downstream. There are many
12 cases where there are dams or water diversion facilities
13 below wild and scenic rivers and wilderness.

14 Before I get into this slide, I realize I left
15 off a few things. Just very quickly, valid patented
16 mining claims can continue to be mined, and private access
17 where it exists is respected in wilderness designation.

18 And within private holdings in wilderness, the
19 BLM and the Forest Service have to look at -- or whatever
20 the managing agency is -- what is the reasonable access to
21 allow that private land if it doesn't currently exist.
22 And they have to consider that whether it's wilderness or
23 not. And, you know, obviously if someone had one acre up
24 on the side of the peak there, it wouldn't be reasonable
25 to allow them to bulldoze a road all the way up through

1 the wilderness, but there could be other circumstances
2 where vehicle access would be appropriate, so it's really
3 case by case on private access. But where there's
4 existing access, that's not an issue if it's valid
5 existing private access.

6 Why wilderness. The BLM and the Forest Service,
7 by their mandate, are multiple use lands. They must
8 consider and allow a wide range of uses, and that can be
9 everything from very -- from preservation to logging and
10 mining and road building, depending on what's determined
11 to be the best use of that public land, even if some of
12 those types of activities could degrade these areas which
13 are primitive, wild, still pristine, roadless places.

14 So some of those -- that range of uses -- right
15 now these lands that are proposed wilderness are general
16 BLM or wilderness lands. They do not have that special
17 protection that would keep them wild.

18 So even if current managers like our managers
19 here today -- I know them all. They're very conscientious
20 about these issues -- some of them retire, and when they
21 retire, things could change, and there's no guarantee that
22 the special qualities of these areas will be protected in
23 the future, without a monument or wilderness type
24 designation.

25 So even in a monument where the range of uses is

1 more limited, there is still not sufficient protection to
2 ensure that the most wild and pristine areas will
3 ultimately not be diminished. Future managers could
4 decide to allow a road to be built in one those roadless
5 areas. So the very features that make this monument so
6 special to begin with could be chipped away at over time,
7 without protection.

8 A wilderness designation helps to ensure the
9 values that we all cherish -- both cultural and natural
10 values -- have the protection they need to endure over
11 time while allowing for needed management and allowing for
12 historic uses to continue.

13 And this is a rainbow over Palm Canyon that I
14 just happened to be driving by about a week ago, and it
15 was raining, and I had a chance to get that shot. That's
16 the end of my presentation. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you, Geary. A lot of
18 information this morning. This is a discussion item for
19 us folks. Geary, you want to hang around?

20 MR. HUND: I'd be happy to answer questions. If I
21 don't know the answer, I'll get it for you so.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Well, are there questions?
23 Dawn?

24 MS. WELLMAN: I don't necessarily have a question,
25 but I do have a concern, and that is with fire management.

1 Our managing agencies right now have their hands full --
2 the entire area. And as you know, we've had fires that
3 burned way more than was designated for wilderness area in
4 a couple of days.

5 I live in Pinyon, and I'm concerned that if this
6 becomes wilderness area -- we already have layers of
7 protection to protect that area, and no one can go in
8 there and build a road -- if we put this extra layer of
9 wilderness on top of what's already got several layers of
10 management and protection, the only thing I can see that's
11 going to make a difference is in fire suppression and fire
12 management.

13 Our agencies already have their hands full
14 trying to manage what is not wilderness. Wilderness will
15 be put on the back burner. I'm concerned that we will
16 lose the areas. I believe that wilderness should be out
17 in the wilderness, not around where people live, their
18 livelihoods, their homes. Idyllwild, if it's surrounded
19 by wilderness, is not going to have fire management.

20 I personally feel just the opposite. I feel
21 like the areas that are surrounded by communities should
22 be managed more than the other areas, not less. I think
23 that less management around where people live is a big
24 mistake. I think we should go out and try something new
25 and say you know where -- in these areas where there's

1 people living, we're going to try something new. We're
2 going to go in there, manage it, and take out all the fire
3 fuels. We're going to make it a really healthy forest.
4 The dead matter in forests is just fuel for fire, and I'm
5 really concerned that a designated rule in this area will
6 put it in the back burner for preventative maintenance. I
7 feel like wilderness should be out where there are no
8 communities at risk.

9 MR. HUND: Dawn, you made a few points. Let me try
10 to address each, one by one by one. First, I share the
11 very concern that you have. Living in Idyllwild, I share
12 that very much so. And I have to do the fuel abatement
13 around my house and also think about the wildlife areas
14 adjacent to us.

15 Frankly, if wilderness were designated today
16 around Idyllwild instead -- if we were involved in that --
17 instead of it coming right to the edge of the community,
18 we would have recommended boundaries set back from the
19 homes enough of a distance so that fuel management could
20 be undertaken without going through the processes you have
21 to go through to reduce fuel in wilderness.

22 But the act does allow, even in wilderness
23 areas, to do presuppression work, but it's not included by
24 wilderness. But in this particular bill, most of the
25 areas that we have in mind are not adjacent to existing

1 communities. And where they are anywhere near a facility
2 or a community, we have incorporated substantial setback.
3 We've talked to the Forest Service and incorporated very
4 substantial setbacks so that presuppression activities
5 continue as they have in the past.

6 And even though the San Jacinto addition is not
7 in this current version of the bill, if it were in the
8 bill, the same thing would occur that would -- we would
9 not propose to come up to the community Pinyon because the
10 community does need to have defensible space, so we're
11 very aware of that.

12 And I think my last point to you and the group
13 is to keep in mind that most fires, most of these
14 destructive wildfires, don't originate in wilderness.
15 They actually originate in areas that aren't wilderness
16 where there are a lot of roads. Most fires, human-caused
17 fires, start at road edges. Wilderness often times is
18 viewed as a threat but it can actually -- it could be
19 argued that it actually builds in some protection, because
20 unfortunately, most of our destructive fires do occur
21 because of human activity, not always arson, but because
22 of, you know, carelessness or vehicle accidents along
23 roadsides, that kind of thing.

24 But I very much want to acknowledge what you're
25 saying because I totally agree that we have to be very

1 conscious of the communities and people's safety. And any
2 kind of decision we make including wilderness designation,
3 we should not come right up to the community edge and
4 should ensure that we talk to the agencies and find out
5 what they need to protect the community.

6 But we also need to support things like
7 prescribed fire in wilderness when fire suppression has
8 caused a lot of fuel buildup to occur. It has to be done
9 responsibly, and we certainly all want to make sure it
10 doesn't cause extinction of wildlife. That's why we love
11 this area. We do need to act when public safety is at
12 risk.

13 MS. WELLMAN: I think South Fork, in particular,
14 historically has been a fire corridor. Depending which
15 way the wind blows, it would blow right up into Idyllwild.

16 MR. HUND: Right. And addressing that concern about
17 the South Fork, we went to the Forest Service and asked
18 what would you need for defensible space there. And for
19 an Idyllwild fire, we looked at Highway 74 with them and
20 have built in a 300 foot setback in addition to the
21 highway where we pull the proposed wilderness boundaries
22 back away from the highway, create a big zone that they
23 could actively modify without jumping through extra hoops.
24 Plus, if there was a fire, in addition to the 300 feet,
25 they can put bulldozers on the ground if they need to.

1 I was involved with fire management for many,
2 many years, both the prescribed fire and on wildfire, and
3 I've driven out, you know, on the road where the paint was
4 removed on the sides of my truck, so I understand on a
5 very visceral level that fire can be both beneficial and
6 destructive, and so I'm very conscious of that.

7 You know, I know that I may not have addressed
8 all your concerns, but I want you to know that I'm coming
9 from that perspective. It's not just from let's protect
10 it all no matter what the consequences.

11 MS. WELLMAN: Only one more comment. When you see a
12 fire coming toward you, a 300 foot protection isn't
13 adequate.

14 MR. HUND: Basically, what we want to do, Dawn, is
15 make sure that what the fire agencies think their needs
16 are that we try to meet them as much as we can.

17 There are certain circumstances with certain
18 fires, as we saw in the recent fire, where there may be no
19 human possible way to stop a fire no matter what we do
20 because of the fuel being dry and the intensity of the
21 winds.

22 MS. WELLMAN: That's exactly my concern because it
23 will be put on the back burner. If it's wilderness, other
24 areas will get attention first.

25 MR. HUND: Well, I'm sorry. Just one last point on

1 that is we are working with the agencies right now through
2 our conservation groups to actually work to create an
3 atmosphere where necessary fire management work can be
4 done in wilderness. We agree that wilderness areas should
5 be able to be managed for fire. We support managing them
6 for fire.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Ric, you have a comment, and
8 then I have an agenda question for Mr. Foote. It is a
9 little past 11:00. Do we need to take public comment?
10 Okay. Let Ric have his comment first.

11 MR. SERVICE: I want to echo Dawn's comments,
12 concerns. You started out in your presentation making a
13 comment that people retire, people move on, the faces
14 change, okay. Well, so are yours, so will everybody in
15 this room. But what I'm seeing in yesterday's article in
16 the Desert Sun only underscored it for me; what I'm seeing
17 is a subtle shift in the language being used by public
18 officials when they speak about wildfires, and they are
19 talking about the urban wilderness interface. And they're
20 making it sound as though we're the bad guys, those of us
21 who live in Idyllwild or Pinyon. This makes it sound like
22 we're the bad guys.

23 And I really am nervous about putting more and
24 more layers of regulation onto lands which may very well
25 need to have less regulation for purposes of fire

1 suppression or fire regulation or fire prevention. I want
2 to tell you it makes me very nervous when I hear public
3 officials making comments, which only are very thinly
4 veiled, that somehow those of us who live in communities
5 like Idyllwild and Pine Cove and Pinyon -- that we're
6 somehow in the wrong.

7 MR. HUND: Richard, I'm not with the a public agency,
8 and I can't speak to that, but I certainly don't feel like
9 we're in the wrong in Idyllwild. And also just, please,
10 all I ask is, you know, for kind of the day in court here.
11 The act really foresaw the need for wild fire management.
12 It allows full range of suppression on just -- the fires
13 that have occurred in the San Gorgonio wilderness recently
14 are a prime example. When there is any kind of public
15 property or public life in any jeopardy at all, the
16 bulldozers hit the ground. They can use any method
17 necessary to stop the fire, and presuppression work is
18 allowed in wilderness.

19 So wilderness is not about whether fire can be
20 fought or not, it's really about making sure that these
21 valleys, like we're looking at right here, are protected
22 in the long-term so that they aren't chopped up and used
23 up and we no longer have these beautiful places that we
24 all cherish. That's what it's about. Fire management is
25 allowed just like it is on other public lands.

1 MR. SERVICE: Maybe I misunderstood you. Did you not
2 start out saying that all of the lands that were proposed
3 to be designated for wilderness areas are already public
4 lands?

5 MR. HUND: They are.

6 MR. SERVICE: It's not as though we're protecting new
7 lands, are we?

8 MR. HUND: The thing is, the arrangement uses that
9 are allowed on the public lands did mean eventually they
10 could be filled with a patchwork of roads. They could be
11 mined. They could be bulldozed up.

12 MR. SERVICE: But none of those rights, according to
13 you, were being breached anyway.

14 MR. HUND: No. It's for -- mining, for example, is
15 existing valid claims. It doesn't allow new mining. It
16 doesn't allow new roads to be built in roadless areas. So
17 it recognizes that there are people and uses occurring
18 sometimes on those lands even though the majority of the
19 land is still pristine, and those existing uses should be
20 fully respected.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I sense that we're not totally
22 satisfied here, and I want to get to that point if we can.
23 But I do need to stop the discussion at this point and go
24 back to our agenda. Public comment -- that's scheduled
25 for 11:00. It is now 11:08, and with that, we will go

1 back to public comment. And for those of you in the
2 audience who wish to speak, would you please form a line?

3 We did take comments this morning on the
4 windmill issue, and that is not off the table, but I would
5 ask that you do not repeat what you said this morning.
6 That is on the record, and we do understand your concerns,
7 and we have provided other avenues for those comments to
8 go forward. So with that, if you would please step
9 forward and, again, repeat your name for the record and
10 address.

11 MR. KING: Gabriel King, Desert Hot Springs. These
12 issues all of you guys are dealing with are really
13 complex, while nobody really knows all the answers of what
14 will happen in the future if this thing passes.

15 But one thing that you must consider -- I'll go
16 back to my forefathers, although you don't want me to
17 repeat, but I think it relevant to this issue -- our
18 forefathers wanted our federal government to be as minimal
19 as possible, to only do certain things. Now the federal
20 government seems to be doing everything. And pretty soon
21 you know -- I mean, they'll have a camera in my bathroom
22 when I'm brushing my teeth, and that will be a federal
23 site. The federal government is taking over everything
24 the local people used to do, and you have to realize that.
25 The most accountable form of government is the city

1 government.

2 The city councilmembers are most accountable to
3 the people and -- because there's a real direct
4 relationship. And the less accountable people would be
5 the county supervisors. I mean, if there's a problem in
6 Desert Hot Springs, I have to go all the way to Riverside,
7 so they're a little less accountable. And then you have a
8 state agency, and they're even less accountable than the
9 county supervisors.

10 Then you have the federal agencies, and the
11 federal agencies are even more -- are even less
12 accountable than those other layers. When you have these
13 layers of government and then you put the federal layer on
14 top of it, for the most part, relative to their
15 jurisdictions, everything below that federal layer -- when
16 it comes to control and everything, everything below that
17 federal layer pretty much is irrelevant because the
18 federal layer ultimately has the final say so. So you
19 need to take that into consideration.

20 I mean, what this guy is saying about access and
21 all these other things is wonderful, but once you give up
22 your local control to the federal government, your ability
23 to have accountability for what those federal people do is
24 a lot less than you would have for a form of government
25 closer to your agency. I mean, my ex-wife used to live in

1 Pinyon. She divorced me, and she married her fifth
2 husband. She was living up in Pinyon, and they had a
3 controlled fire, and it almost burned down Pinyon, so
4 there are some real issues. You just need to take that
5 into consideration.

6 And I don't think that the federal government
7 has a real good track record of being really sensitive to
8 the local and regional issues, I mean, so you have to take
9 into consideration. If you can do all of these items that
10 you want to do without this federal oversight, then that
11 would be great, and if not, we will come to a time where
12 we pretty much eliminate, you know, local government,
13 county government, state government. We'll just have a
14 big federal government. Everything will be federal.
15 That's who we'll focus on, and everything else really
16 won't matter because the federal jurisdiction will make
17 everything else irrelevant. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. King, for your
19 comments. Next, please.

20 MR. SHAPPELL: Hello, everybody. Thank you for being
21 here. My name is Doug Shappell. I live in Snow Creek.
22 I've been through a lot of fires. And it's -- about the
23 windmills, I've seen a windmill blow up and drop hydraulic
24 fuel and diesel, and it's pretty intense because they want
25 to build on that ridge. All our fires come usually over

1 that mountain into Snow Creek because it's that western
2 wind that comes in. Okay. And if they do the windmills
3 up there, that would be one consideration that wasn't
4 brought up. That could happen, and that would be a
5 disaster.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you for your comments.
7 They are on the record. Thank you. Is there anyone else?
8 Oh, my goodness.

9 MS. MISURACA: Good morning. My name is
10 Jackie Misuraca. I live in and I am a resident of
11 Snow Creek. I would just like to take this opportunity to
12 thank the board for allowing me to come up here to
13 observe, listen, and learn as to what's going on and also
14 for that ride up that was so cool. Again, I would just
15 like to say thank you for the opportunity.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. Thank you for
17 joining us this morning. Anyone else wishing to speak?
18 Oh, Jeb. Come on Jeb.

19 MR. JEB: I would like to add another little point
20 about the presentation of the bill, the Mary Bono bill
21 that was brought up. I see an open conflict in, for
22 instance, the water issue. You have wilderness, you have
23 the
24 San Gorgonio wilderness. You have water coming off
25 San Gorgonio going down White Water. You have

1 Nestle Arrowhead drilling and pumping and depleting the
2 watershed in wilderness and through Forest Service, and
3 nobody objecting or bringing it up. To me, the real
4 issue, the real nitty-gritty money issues are not being
5 addressed. That's just one of my takes on it.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you, Jeb.

7 MS. STEWART: That inspired me to say something about
8 the Chino Canyon.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Your name again, please?

10 MS. STEWART: Dana Stewart, Palm Springs public
11 counsel, spelled c-o-u-n-s-e-l. We want to do the legal
12 and legislative protection of these canyons, one of the
13 biggest of Chino Canyon and the watershed there, and all
14 of these things that all tie into together.

15 I would like to see the Bono legislation
16 encompass more than it does. Maybe it would protect
17 Snow Creek from the windmills and protect the Chino Canyon
18 from development. And I've been working with the forestry
19 service about the wildland in urban interface area. There
20 are ways to address it, and it is their number one concern
21 on every level of the government because they go to
22 protect the homes first, then anything else. But I just
23 wanted to let you know that those are all interrelated.
24 All of them have, as their priority, the wildland in
25 urban.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you.

2 MS. STEWART: Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: With that, we'll move -- I
4 think we'll stay with public comment and make sure we go
5 around the table and get any MAC members who may wish to
6 comment at this time on any issue. We will be going back
7 to the agenda item.

8 I do have one -- I received information
9 recently. There is a position on the advisory board for
10 the Joshua Tree National Park Association, and I indicated
11 that I would bring the request along with me this morning
12 and make that announcement here for anyone so wishing to
13 perhaps serve on that board. This came to me as the
14 suggestion that perhaps I could do it. Unfortunately, I
15 just do not have the time, but I do share the information
16 this morning.

17 And, please, if you know someone that has an
18 active interest in these kinds of issues and would like to
19 start to participate at kind of a more official level, let
20 Jim know. Or I do have the other information here for
21 that, so I have shared that.

22 At this time we will move back to the agenda
23 item which was -- we were at discussion under the proposed
24 legislation that Congresswoman Bono may be carrying.
25 Buford?

1 MR. CRITES: And I assume our discussion needs to
2 focus specifically on those portions of that legislation
3 that are inside this monument?

4 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: That would be correct. That
5 is where our involvement is, is the possible extension of
6 some of our boundaries. In some respects, those were kind
7 of cleanup issues, if you will, or kind of, you know,
8 being a little more exclusive to something that kind of
9 juttred out. So we were very careful in looking at those
10 property rights and the people involved there and in
11 bringing forward those recommendations to you this
12 morning. Would somebody -- would you like to go over
13 those recommendations again, or did you clearly understand
14 what it was being recommended for boundary increases for
15 the monument?

16 MR. CRITES: I would note that the largest boundary
17 addition is the addition that's in the Santa Rosa Mountain
18 Peak area, and that is really lands that go from the
19 Santa Rosa Mountain Road over, more or less, to the west
20 to the tribal boundary for the Santa Rosa Band.
21 Obviously, it does not touch any tribal land, but it was a
22 chunk of Forest Service land that, I think, was
23 accidentally left out when the monument was created, and
24 by being out, as it was mentioned earlier, it does not
25 allow any monument monies to be used to fix the road, do

1 some fire work up there, have them evacuate, all of that
2 stuff so -- and it just sort of tidies up. It makes the
3 forest boundary and the monument boundary the same
4 boundary. And then the other two are very small
5 additions. One of them I think was as small as 50 acres
6 down at the bottom of Snow Creek Road, and none of them, I
7 believe, involved any private lands. They're all existing
8 public lands.

9 MR. MORGAN: And there are also possibly --

10 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: A little louder.

11 MR. MORGAN: Also being considered as other
12 boundaries issues are the, I guess, the southeast of the
13 monument, but they have not been introduced yet, and this
14 is where the boundary was drawn along the old wilderness
15 -- I'm sorry -- the wilderness boundary -- and it doesn't
16 make sense in some ways -- to the monument, but that has
17 not been introduced at this point.

18 MR. MARCHAND: What is the recommendation of the
19 body?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: I believe the overall
21 recommendation would be to support the wilderness.

22 MR. CRITES: For those areas within the national
23 monument, that be would be our motion.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Does everybody understand the
25 motion? We have a motion. Did we get a second?

1 MS. WELLMAN: I don't understand the motion.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Okay. Let's have the motion
3 explained.

4 MR. MARCHAND: The motion is to accept the
5 recommended course of action as the recommendation of this
6 committee.

7 MR. CRITES: For the lands within the national
8 monument.

9 MS. WELLMAN: Whose recommendation are we --

10 MR. CRITES: The Bono legislation as proposed.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Does that include the wild and
12 scenic river portion?

13 MR. CRITES: Palm Canyon --

14 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: It's those that are within the
15 monument. Okay.

16 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Excuse me. Just a
17 clarification. Bono's bill proposes other lands other
18 than just the monument? That's what you're saying --
19 within the monument?

20 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Exactly.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Okay. Dawn?

22 MS. WELLMAN: I understand.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Okay. We have a motion. We
24 have a second, and we had an explanation. All those in
25 favor indicate by saying aye.

1 (Chorus of Ayes.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any opposed? Any abstentions?

3 That passes. Thank you very, very much. Guess what we're

4 going do? We're going to go backward.

5 MR. CRITES: For role call?

6 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: No. No. We're going backward

7 to reopen the funding discussion actually from Buford, and

8 it was because, apparently, there was an additional report

9 that he was supposed to deliver on the Dunn Road.

10 MR. CRITES: I was actually going to do that at

11 12:55, but if Mr. Foote wants it now, he'll get it.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Let me get it off my 12:55

13 then.

14 MR. CRITES: It's not on there. I had written it in.

15 The one other item that the steering committee was asked

16 -- well, actually, two other items: Mr. Foote is going to

17 report on the charter changes and on the little thing we

18 talked about at our last meeting having to do with all the

19 alternates and how they're chosen and get to vote and not

20 and so on.

21 The other one I was asked to report on was the

22 -- we asked -- the committee and the monument asked to

23 look to see which agencies might be willing to participate

24 in either funding or volunteer efforts having to do with

25 the maintenance of the Dunn Road, and so letters were sent

1 out to a number of agencies -- the City of Palm Springs,
2 the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Desert
3 Search and Rescue from the sheriff's department, the
4 Coachella Mountains Conservancy, Riverside County Flood
5 Control, and Palm Desert -- or excuse me -- Palm Springs
6 Police Department's Mounted Police Search and Rescue, to
7 see if those entities had interest.

8 I received letters back from three of those
9 entities, and we'll include those in our minutes.

10 There were two questions posed: One, because
11 there's private property that does not allow access from
12 the, quote, lower end or Cathedral City end of the
13 Dunn Road, would simply having public access to the
14 Dunn Road still allow you to do those things you need that
15 road for, and that was Item 1.

16 MR. MORGAN: I don't think there is any public
17 access. It's in our administrative use access.

18 MR. CRITES: Excuse me. I'm getting who wrote back
19 and who didn't. And they were, secondly, asked if they
20 had any money or strong backs. There were three responses
21 thus far.

22 The Agua Caliente Band noted that access from
23 the top would be acceptable to them. They somehow forgot
24 to mention how much money they were willing to spend to
25 help. I'm certain that was an over --

1 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: It was left for discussion.

2 MR. CRITES: So I assume their commitment is just
3 beyond any normal budget that large.

4 Coachella Mountains Conservancy says yes, access
5 from the top will be acceptable for them for
6 administrative purposes. They have no money.

7 And Riverside County Flood Control and Water
8 Conservation District said yes, access from the top is
9 acceptable, and they do have interest in, quote, helping
10 to maintain and do work, so that hints at resources.

11 I have not yet heard from the City of
12 Palm Springs or from City of Palm Springs Search and
13 Rescue, so probably it would be the recommendation of the
14 steering committee that we simply reconvene this group and
15 invite these agencies to see what resources they may have
16 and what they would be willing to do.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Is that a motion?

18 MR. MARCHAND: I'll second that, Madam Chair.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: That was a motion. With a
20 second, we can still entertain discussion. Does somebody
21 have a question?

22 MR. MORGAN: I had a question. This goes back to the
23 steering committee as we did before?

24 MR. CRITES: Yeah. That's the recommendation. We go
25 back there and invite these agencies to sit down, sit

1 right along with the Bureau of Land Management, the
2 Forest Service -- what they have in terms of planning and
3 monies and so on for the administrative purposes of search
4 and rescue, for flood control issues, for potential
5 firefighting, and the other things that were listed in the
6 legislation as being usable, and private property rights
7 on that road.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Thank you. With that, we have
9 a motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor
10 indicate by saying aye.

11 (Chorus of ayes)

12 CHAIRWOMAN HENDERSON: Any abstentions? And now we
13 are moving forward. We're moving to our report, and this
14 was a recording of MAC minutes, and I believe you are
15 going to comment on this?

16 MR. FOOTE: Yes. At this point, we will suspend the
17 official recording of minutes by the court reporter.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.)

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