

**SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL MONUMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 5, 2002**

United States Department of Agriculture; United States Department of the Interior

MEETING LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
PALM DESERT, CA

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, October 5, 2002
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:

MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):

WILLIAM WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation
BARY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City
TERRY HENDERSON, Councilmember, City of La Quinta
ROBERT BROCKMAN, Planning Director, City of Rancho Mirage
BUFORD CRITES, Councilmember and former Mayor, City of Palm Desert
LARRY GRAFTON, Senior Planner, City of Indian Wells
BARBARA GONZALES-LYONS, Vice Chair, Tribal Council, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
BILL HAVERT, Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
JEFFERY MORGAN, Sierra Club, Local Conservation Organization
EDWARD KIBBEY, Building Industry Association
BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside
ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Winter Park Authority
RUTH WATLING, Chair, Pinyon Community Council

STAFF AND PRESENTERS:

DANELLA GEORGE, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager
CONNELL DUNNING, Bureau of Land Management Community Planner
LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USDA Forest Service, District Ranger, San Jacinto Ranger District
JIM KENNA, BLM Field Manager, Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
EDDY KONNO, California Department of Fish and Game

AGENDA

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Ed Kibbey

Welcome and introduction of soon to be former committee member, Larry Grafton, City of Indian Wells. Individual introductions and brief bio from each Monument Advisory Committee member.

Public Comments

No one submitted a request for permission to speak. Mr. Crites asked for permission to talk about something that didn't pertain to the monument then he passed around a publication called *The Atlas of Salton Sea*. There was a discussion about the Atlas its contents and costs. After the discussion there were a couple of individuals who requested to speak.

Randy Roberts commented about recreation and its future in the monument and how everything is closed to the public. He also mentioned that he understood the goals are noble but people have to have a place to recreate.

Barbara Bergman, a representative for highway 74 commented about the status of bicycles on 74.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES – Ed Kibbey

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

HOUSEKEEPING, UPDATE FROM DFO, Danella George

Danella informed the committee that they would all be getting new notebooks at the next meeting. She answered some follow up questions from the last meeting. She announced that the vacancies on the committee were being advertised for another thirty days in the Federal Register. The time frame for application closes October 7, 2002. Danella announced the hiring of the Interpret Specialist, Tracy Littler.

UPDATE BY AGENCY LINE OFFICERS, Laurie Rosenthal, Jim Kenna

Laurie briefed the committee on the fire closures, the Healthy Forest Initiative and the forest planning process. Jim Kenna had just returned from Washington, DC and informed the committee on of the Coachella Valley Plan Amendment, the BLM portion of the Multiple Species Plan and that it has been approved for publication. He also talked about the two facility corridors in the valley which are carried forward from the California Desert plans.

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION PRESENTATION ABOUT USE OF A FACILITATOR, Mike Eng

Mr. Eng talked about the type of services the institute provides, what they are about, and what the committee might expect in terms of assistance from a facilitator.

CAL TRANS DISCUSSION ON HIGHWAY 74 MANAGEMENT, Charlotte Sheelan, Scott Quinnell

Charlotte Sheelan, the environmental planner for the project, discussed Highway 74 projects that are to take place in 2003 and how they will help with such things as, the flow of traffic, and improve sight distance at the intersection of 74 and Carrizo Road. Scott Quinnell, the biologist for highway 74, talked about their plans and intentions. Some of the plans he mentioned include improving turnouts, the construction of two right lanes between Palm Canyon and Pinyon Road, the installation of guardrails and upgrading the Coachella Valley Vista Point. He stated that their intentions were to do away with the slow-moving vehicles and provide them enough time to transition onto the turnouts and allow the flow of traffic. He added, these projects are scheduled

for 2004; the upgrade of the Vista Point is scheduled for 2003. Then there was a discussion between the committee members, Ms. Sheelan and Mr. Watts about the specifics of the projects and various existing signage issues on the highway.

MANAGEMENT PLAN TIMELINE, Connell Dunning

Connell Dunning discussed what they have accomplished and where the committee is in regards to the management plan timeline. And what they are required to accomplish and by when.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Barbara Bergman

DISCUSSION OF ISSUE WORKSHEETS-INPUT FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, Connell Dunning/Committee

Connell Dunning discussed the concerns raised by the public and the areas identified through the legislation that need to be addressed in the Monument Plan. Each area was discussed with a brief statement about the existing conditions and questions about how the Committee would recommend items for the plan. Process was outlined for the Committee to come back to the next meeting with input and recommendations for the plan. Working group meetings were planned.

SUMMARIZE MEETING AND NEXT MEETING NEEDS FROM THE COMMITTEE, Danella George, DFO/Committee Chair

ADJOURN, Ed Kibbey