

AGENDA
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.
District Headquarters, Board Room, First Floor
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

Meeting attendees should be aware that the meetings of the Committee are, as required by law, open to the public and the District has very limited powers to regulate who attends Committee meetings. Therefore, attendees must exercise their own judgement with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19, as the District cannot ensure that all attendees at public meetings will be free from COVID-19.

OPEN SESSION 9:00 A.M.

1. Public Comment

The public may address the Recreation Committee on any matter not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the Committee. All comments are subject to a five-minute time limit.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

The Committee will review the Minutes from the May 5, 2021, meeting.

3. Concessions Update

Information Item

The Committee will receive an oral report on the status of potential concessions operations for the marina in 2022.

4. Economic Update

Information Item

The Committee will receive an oral report and presentation from staff on the visitation and revenue figures associated with Recreation Area.

5. Monthly Operational Update

Information Item

The Committee will receive and review the monthly report. Additionally, the Committee will receive an oral report and presentation from staff which includes ongoing tasks and activities from the Lake Piru Recreation Area for the months of May through August 2021.

6. Proposed New Trail Emanating from the Pothole Trailhead Parking Lot

Information Item

The Committee will receive an oral report and presentation from staff on the proposed new hiking trail extending from the Pothole Trailhead parking area.

7. Future Agenda Items

The Committee will suggest issues or topics of discussion they would like added to future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT



Recreation Committee Meeting

September 1, 2021

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Directors:

Chair Sheldon G. Berger

Mohammed A. Hasan

Edwin T. McFadden III

Staff:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Clayton Strahan

Josh Perez

Zach Plummer

Eva Ibarra

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, the District's services, programs, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or if you require agenda material in an alternative format, please contact the District Office at (805) 525-4431. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements.

Approved: _____


General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

Posted: (Date) August 26, 2021

(time) 4:45 P.M.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: United Water Conservation District Headquarters, 1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

Posted: (Date) August 26, 2021

(time) 5:00 P.M.

(attest) Eva Ibarra

At: www.unitedwater.org

MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.
UWCD Headquarters, Board Room
1701 N. Lombard Street, Oxnard, CA 93030

(In addition to its public Recreation Committee Meeting, the public could also choose to participate virtually using the Webex video conferencing application.)

Committee Members Present:

Chair Sheldon G. Berger
Mohammed A. Hasan
Edwin T. McFadden III

Staff Present:

Anthony Emmert, assistant general manager
Clayton Strahan, chief park ranger
Jackie Lozano, administrative assistant
Josh Perez, human resources manager
Zachary Plummer, IT administrator

Public Present:

Maria Christopher
John Marquez

OPEN SESSION 9:02 a.m.

Chair Berger called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

Committee Roll Call

Clerk called the roll. Director Berger participated via WebEx and Director Hasan participated in person. Director McFadden initially signed on, but due to technical difficulties was unavailable during roll call; he joined the meeting later and participated via Webex.

1. Public Comment

Chair Berger asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Committee Minutes from April 7, 2021, Director Hasan; Second, Director Berger. Two ayes (Hasan, Berger); none opposed, one absent (Director McFadden). Motion carried 2/0/1.

3. Economic Update

Chief Strahan provided an overview and presentation to the Committee (presentation attached). Some of the items discussed were statistical vessel and day-use camping information, protocols and procedures for boats entering and exiting the lake regarding quagga mussels, and incentive programs for repeat and day use visitors.



Information Item. No further comments or questions from the Committee.

No comments or questions from the public.

4. Monthly Operational Update

The Committee received and reviewed the monthly report, as provided in the agenda packet. Chief Strahan presented highlights of the monthly activities for April 2021 (presentation attached). Director Hasan suggested to staff to continue their outreach efforts by including outlying counties and other tourism bureau's. Chief Strahan mentioned that he and staff are continually working on getting the name out there.

IT Administrator Zachary Plummer summarized the process of how the Wi-fi coverage was selected, as requested by Director Hasan. Also mentioned was that the system is upgradeable, in anticipation of future wireless technology upgrades which occur every couple of years.

There was a question as to accommodations in the camping area for larger trailers/RVs. Chief Strahan explained requests such as those are being mitigated through the master planning efforts. United staff met three times at Lake Piru to developing a list of future improvements for the new fiscal year and future years to layout changes and improvements to the park. Director McFadden commented he finds it exciting to attend these Recreation Committee meetings and what he was hearing is encouraging and feels optimistic with what the future holds.

Public participant John Marquez, CEO for the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce, commended Recreation Area staff for the work being done at the lake and offered his service/support as a chamber member. Maria Christopher who represents the Heritage Valley Tourism Bureau also gave her thanks to Chief Strahan and the Committee for the changes that are happening at the Lake for the Piru community. Director Berger thanked Mr. Marquez and Ms. Christopher for their participation and welcomed their comments. Also, he stressed the importance of establishing partnerships with other organizations and community that staff is working hard to build.

Information Item. No further comments or questions from the Committee.

No further comments or questions from the public.

5. Future Agenda Items

Chair Berger polled the Committee as to any future agenda items. None were offered.

ADJOURNMENT 9:37 A.M.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Berger at 9:37 A.M.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the UWCD Recreation Committee meeting of May 5, 2021.

ATTEST: _____
Chair Sheldon G. Berger



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Economic Update				
2018 – 2021 Revenue and Visitation Comparison				
Year	2021	2020	2019	2018
Day Use Revenue	\$89,470.50	\$9,731.25	\$36,086.60	\$22,935.40
Camping Revenue	\$142,123.90	\$47,469.80	\$178,568.03	\$96,886.20
Combined Revenue	\$231,594.40	\$57,201.05	\$214,654.63	\$119,821.60
Other Revenue	\$900.00	\$3,445.00	\$18,490.00	\$14,620.00
Persons	13,968	2,885	15,575	9,265
Vehicles	6,575	1,282	6,704	4,224
Vessels	1,257	224	721	465

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Operational Update – General

- Pothole Trailhead Vandalism Mitigation
 - Reset stone bollards around vehicle gate
- Installation of Quiet Time Signs
- Traffic Curb Restoration Project
- Plumbing Repairs
 - Eight minor-moderate repairs
- Herbicide Application within Recreation Area

United Water Conservation District

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Operational Update

Purchases and Installations

- Wi-Fi Project Installation and Completion (4/23)
- Installation of Vending Machines
- Purchase and Installation of Pay Shower Assemblies & ADA features



United Water Conservation District

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Operational Update

Facilities Maintenance

- Main Line Leak Repair in Day Use Irrigation System
- RFP for Day Use Facility Irrigation Restoration Project
- Repair of Traffic Signs
- Landscape Maintenance (Ongoing)



United Water Conservation District

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Operational Update

Travel, Trainings, and Meetings

- Meeting with Santa Clarita Tourism Bureau and Visit California
- Meetings with potential vending and storefront concessions organizations
- Initiation of informal discussions with a potential marina concessionaire



United Water Conservation District

Staff Report

To: UWCD Recreation Committee Members

Through: Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager

From: Clayton W. Strahan, Chief Park Ranger

Date: August 17, 2021 (September 1, 2021, Meeting)

Agenda Item: 4. Monthly Operational Update
Information item

Staff Recommendation:

The Committee will receive this summary report and a presentation from the Park and Recreation Department regarding its activities for the months of July and August 2021.

Discussion:

Following a successful start to the summer season, Recreation staff kept the positive momentum and rolled forward into a very busy July and August. Staff kept busy with routine maintenance and operation tasks, as well as multiple law enforcement and medical responses. Among other things, staff dealt with large crowds, lots of boaters, and a bear with a bad habit of getting into trash cans. Despite the hot weather and significant workload, staff was productive and continued pushing forward to turn the Recreation Area into an asset for the District.

Note – this report contains several tasks and incidents that occurred during the month of June after the filing of the previous staff report and are included here to ensure the Board is fully informed of activities at the Recreation Area.

1. Staff Tasks and Activity Highlights

- **June 27:** Rangers assisted a guest with repairs on a vessel trailer with mechanical failure preventing safe transportation of the vessel.
 - **June 28:** Staff completed brush clearance work surrounding the Pothole trailhead parking lot to maintain compliance with County fire regulations.
 - **July 8:** Staff continued efforts associated with cleaning up the dry storage area near the marina and making several maintenance repairs, including repairing the onsite gas pump
 - **July 12:** Staff facilitated annual maintenance of assigned patrol vehicles. This was performed at the Bunnin dealership in Fillmore.
 - **July 13, 27:** Staff transported researchers from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project around the lake by boat to support their work in identifying cyanobacteria in bodies of water around the area.
 - **July 13:** Staff performed routine quagga mitigation measures on District watercraft, including pulling the vessels from the water and pressure washing them to reduce the
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impact of the quagga mussels on the operating systems of the boat and aid in population management.

- **July 13:** Staff performed mid-season repairs to more than 20 picnic tables with broken and/or damaged surfaces, replacing missing hardware and/or painting due to heavy and continued use. This task is conducted annually in July each season.
- **July 20:** Staff conducted mid-season lake maintenance activities including moving buoys and dock and re-positioning the swim beach delineators. This is an annual mid-season task that requires a minimum of four people and watercraft to accomplish.
- **July 22-25:** Staff assisted EcoMarine LLC and Anghera Diving with ongoing quagga mussel management efforts associated with the scraping and removal of adult quagga mussels from District infrastructure. Staff's primary role was to provide top side support to divers as they engaged in maintenance activities.
- **July 27:** Staff conducted significant plumbing repairs to the Olive Grove restroom facilities. This included rebuilding flushing valves, P-traps and floor drains in an effort to ensure adequate amenities for the District's guests.
- **July 1-August 3:** The District's landscape contractor for the Lake Piru Recreation Area performed three repair/mitigation projects associated with three areas within the Recreation Area. Work was performed to run new control wires, replace irrigation valves and to replace irrigation heads in all three grass areas within the day use area encompassing the Condor Point store and day use areas nearest the ranger station, the park entry kiosk, and the day use facility. The largest effort was associated with the day use park, as all 240 irrigation heads and 22 valves were replaced and all new control wires were pulled to restore full automation to the parks irrigation systems.
- **August 3:** Staff assisted the Operations & Maintenance Department with efforts associated with servicing the CLA valves and other infrastructure at the Lake Piru Water Treatment Plant.
- **August 3:** Staff initiated annual maintenance repairs on the District's work barge used to move large anchors on the reservoir. Unfortunately, the level of maintenance needed required skills not possessed internally and the vessel was taken to Lakeside Boats in Castaic for repairs and maintenance.
- **August 10:** Staff performed a multi-departmental move of the marina and shore-side anchors to accommodate falling lake levels as a result of evaporation and mandated conservation releases. This effort included staff from both the Recreation and Operations departments at the Santa Felicia Dam.
- **August 15:** Staff performed electrical safety repairs in the Olive Grove Campground including re-securing locked electrical panels, replacing broken emergency lighting and testing GFI outlets.
- **August 17:** Staff assisted researchers from California State University Long Beach in their work investigating geological formations around the Recreation Area.

2. Staff Training/Meetings/Events

- **Weekly throughout July and August:** Intra-department meetings were held to familiarize staff with operational procedures and developments at the Recreation Area. These meetings included involvement with administrative staff, operations staff, and human resources.
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- **July 9:** Staff facilitated filming with ABC News for a story on the water crisis in California, including an interview with General Manager Mauricio Guardado.
- **July 20:** Staff met with members of Boy Scout Troop 128 to coordinate their visit and identify service projects for them to complete during their stay.
- **July 20:** Staff completed respirator fit testing at the El Rio facility.
- **August 13:** Staff held a meeting to plan future developments in the Recreation Area to remain in compliance with Article 412 Recreation Improvement Project requirements.
- **August 16:** Staff met with members of the Engineering team to further the planning process of multiple upcoming CIP projects at the Recreation Area.

3. Revenue and Visitation Recap

2021 Day Use Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1-August 17, 2021)	\$274,111.20
2019 Day Use Revenue (Jan. 1-August 31, 2019)	\$174,665.60
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from Prior Year	\$99,445.60
Annual Increase in %	57%
2021 Camping Revenue Recap and Comparison	
2021 Camping Revenue (Feb. 19-August 17, 2021)	\$389,198.40
2019 Camping Revenue (Jan. 1-August 31, 2019)	\$420,642.57
Total Revenue Increase/Decrease from 2019	\$(31,444.17)
Annual Increase in %	(7.5%)
Current and Record Year Comparison (2019 vs. 2021)	
2021 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 to August 17)	\$663,309.60
2019 Combined Revenue (Jan. 1 to August 31)	\$595,308.17

*** Camping Revenue has been impacted by the park closure order due to COVID-19. Camping reservations resumed on February 19, 2021, and in person camping began March 11th.*

**** It should be noted that 2019 was one of the highest revenue years in the history of the park. 2021 is on pace to exceed the 2019 day-use numbers and is just slightly below the camping revenue from that year.*

2021 Total Visitation Figures				
Month	# Nights/Sites	# People	# Vehicles	# Vessels
January	0	2,627	1,196	219
February	0	2,047	1,049	155
March	243	3,473	1,771	393
April	624	5,940	2,653	483
May	732	5,346	3,292	507
June	685	5,581	3,025	730
July	1,007	6,986	3,783	817
August (1-17)	316	2,893	1,588	474

4. **Incidents/Arrests/Medicals**

Ranger personnel had an increase in both responses for aid and enforcement actions during the month of June and July. Several items of note are listed below:

- **June 25:** Rangers responded with the California Highway Patrol and Ventura County Fire to a reported traffic collision on Piru Canyon Road just outside the Recreation Area. There were no injuries and the driver was later arrested for driving under the influence.
 - **June 25:** Rangers coordinated a search of the Recreation Area for a reported missing guest. After some time, the guest was located unconscious locked inside a shower. The Ventura County Fire Department responded to provide assistance and the guest was transported for more comprehensive medical care.
 - **June 26:** Rangers responded to a reported vessel fire in the area of the marina. Upon arrival, they learned that the fire had been extinguished by the vessel owner using the extinguisher stationed on the marina. The vessel had recently been repaired and caught fire from a significant fuel leak immediately after starting the engine. There were no injuries.
 - **June 26:** Rangers and Ventura County Sheriff's deputies responded to a reported stabbing in the Olive Grove campground. After an investigation, it was determined that no stabbing occurred, but multiple subjects were arrested and several groups were ejected from the Recreation Area.
 - **June 27:** Rangers responded to a medical emergency on the lake and learned that two subjects had been ejected from a jet ski and took in water upon impact with the lake surface. One subject was having trouble breathing and Ventura County Fire Department responded to assist him. The subject was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.
 - **July 2:** Rangers contacted the Ventura County Sheriff's Office regarding a subject in the Recreation Area exhibiting bizarre behavior and signs of intoxication or mental illness. Following an evaluation, the subject was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance.
 - **July 2:** Rangers responded to a reported vessel fire on the lake. Upon locating the subject vessel, it was determined that no fire occurred, but rather the occupants jumped off into the lake, inhaled water, and became exhausted. The guests were transported back to shore, medically evaluated by the Ventura County Fire Department, and ultimately released.
 - **July 4:** Rangers responded to a medical incident in the area of the Olive Grove campground and located the patient at the bottom of Squirrel Canyon. The juvenile patient had attempted to chase a ball down the hill and fell, resulting in a broken ankle. The juvenile's guardian declined emergency medical care and transported the patient to the hospital for care.
 - **July 4:** Rangers responded to a medical incident in the area of the Olive Grove campground. A guest had fallen over the retaining wall surrounding the lower restroom, resulting in significant bruising to the thighs and shins. The guest declined emergency medical care and was provided ice packs.
 - **July 4:** Rangers and Ventura County Sheriff's deputies responded to a reported fight in the Olive Grove Campground, resulting in multiple persons being arrested.
 - **July 10:** Rangers responded to a report of a guest driving a van through the campground running on the rim with the tire on fire. Staff extinguished the fire and identified the driver. Officers from the California Highway Patrol responded to assist and arrested the driver for driving under the influence.
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- **July 16:** Rangers responded to a report of a guest walking throughout the campground, harassing other guests, and behaving irrationally. After the guest proved to be confrontational to Rangers, deputies from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office responded and ultimately arrested the guest for being under the influence of a controlled substance.
- **July 18:** While walking along the marina, Rangers observed a guest struggling to swim and dropping under the water. Rangers pulled the guest from the lake, provided first aid, and monitored his vital signs. After an observation period, the guest declined further medical treatment or care.
- **July 18:** Rangers received a report of a theft from a tent in the Olive Grove campground. The victim reported that someone went through their tent during the early morning hours while they were gone and stole several valuable items. As Rangers were unable to identify possible suspects or evidence, the victim was advised to contact the Sheriff's Office to file a theft report.
- **July 18:** Rangers searched the Recreation Area after dark to locate a missing guest. Ultimately, the guest was located along the lake shore far away from their vehicle. They became disoriented in the dark and were not sure how to get back to their intended location.
- **July 30:** Rangers responded to a criminal threat incident in the Olive Grove campground. After an investigation, it was determined that no crime could be established, but both parties were advised to remain away from each other and no further problems occurred.
- **July 30, August 1:** Rangers responded on two nights in a row to the Lower Oaks camping area, where guests reported being shot with BB guns by multiple persons in a vehicle. There were no injuries. Rangers were unable to determine a motive for the shooting or identify suspects. One suspect vehicle was stopped by Rangers but determined to be unrelated to the incident.
- **July 30:** Rangers responded to a large disturbance in the Group 1 campground. It was determined that several members of an extended family began fighting with each other after a disagreement. The involved parties did not desire prosecution and there were no injuries. A significant number of guests left the site to keep the peace among the family.
- **August 8:** Rangers located a male subject walking along Piru Canyon Road late at night. The subject requested assistance with his vehicle, which had become stuck in the National Forest, forcing the subject to walk multiple hours back to the Recreation Area. Rangers attempted to assist the subject with the recovery of his vehicle but determined that the vehicle was stuck in a location that was beyond their ability to recover. The subject was transported back to his residence and provided resources to coordinate the extraction of his vehicle.

5. Citations/Enforcement Summary

Throughout July and August, ten citations were issued for violations of District Ordinance 15 and state law, including:

- Ordinance 15 Section 3.2, Public Use Fees
 - Ordinance 15 Section 5.5(a), Operate Vehicle Off Road
 - Ordinance 15 Section 5.6(j), Fishing After Hours
 - Ordinance 15 Section 5.9(b), Noise After Hours
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- Harbors & Navigation Code 655(a), Reckless Operation of Vessel
- Harbors & Navigation Code 655.2(a)(2)(C), Speed in Restricted Area
- Penal Code 374.3(a), Illegal Dumping

It should be noted that numerous other enforcement contacts were made for violations of District Ordinances. However, as it is the District's goal to use education as a means for compliance, in most cases Park Rangers used these incidents as an opportunity to educate the guests via a verbal warning.

6. Grants

Staff recently spent time evaluating a cyber security grant administered by Ventura County via Homeland Security as a possible opportunity for funding to upgrade the security cameras at Lake Piru. Staff met with the County Sheriff's office on June 29 to discuss the potential for partnering with the Sheriff's Department on the possibility of a joint project to make the viability more favorable for both agencies. After that meeting, staff determined a joint project was not feasible and on July 12 submitted a standalone project application headed up by Tony Huynh, the District's Safety and Security Program Coordinator. Staff is currently awaiting on a response from the administering agency to determine if the District will be awarded the grant in the amount of \$59,120.