



San Diego County MPA Community Collaborative Meeting
January 16, 2016
Encinitas City Hall, 1 – 3 pm

Notes:

22 members in attendance

● **MPA Updates**

○ **Lifeguard enforcement trainings**

- 37 San Diego City Guards were trained on La Jolla MPAs in December, 2015
- MPA training for Encinitas Lifeguards - Sgt. Larry Giles will figure out scheduling for new lifeguard hires before summer. Core staff can be trained now but need we would need to have 2-3 separate trainings to fit into schedules.
- We will explore Miramar College Lifeguard Training Program to fit in MPA educational trainings into their curriculum.
- FOLLOW UP: Zach will work with Larry to get contacts for Miramar College training program.

○ **Swami's Reef negative tide docent training with San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy**

- Nine docents trained to monitor and provide outreach during holiday negative tides at the reef at Swamis.
- Could benefit from Cabrillo docents program
- Docents that were trained were able to educate the public that visited the San Elijo Lagoon and Cardiff Reef.
- Public response was positive, about 95% of people didn't know about the restrictions and rules of the MPA.
- Docents would like more educational tools to provide to the public
- Need to develop a Countywide docent training.
- Docents could use tools, such as MPA overview sheets, that DFW provides on their website to learn more about each MPA, link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Outreach-Materials#26716428-mpa-overview-sheets>

- FOLLOW UP: Reconvene San Elijo docent group to fill missing information and distribute appreciation bags, shirts; find other docent groups for MPAs.
- **MPA Ambassador Training**
 - Training plan for 2016 – Program will be developed statewide in partnership with other MPA Collaboratives and groups.
 - There is potential partnership opportunity with Birch Aquarium’s MPA Educational program.
 - Batiquitos Lagoon docents would be great to be trained ahead of the annual kayak event. Event is in October-November.
 - Should target Junior Lifeguard programs during summer 2016.
 - FOLLOW UP: Meet with Junior Lifeguard program director to discuss Ambassador Program; identify new groups and businesses for the program.
- **MPA Master Plan**
 - Comments to the Master Plan are due by January 28
 - You can find the Master Plan here:
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan>
 - To submit comments on the Master Plan, please visit the Fish and Game Commission’s website: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/contact/>
 - A discussion hearing is scheduled for the Commission’s February 10 in Sacramento, followed by possible adoption of the Master Plan at the Commission’s April 13 meeting in Santa Rosa
 - Does not mention role of Collaborative or outside agencies particularly in regards to enforcement; does mention role of volunteer monitoring.
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 - Appendix F includes South Coast priorities (SEE ATTACHED).
 - We can send comments as a Collaborative if need be.
 - FOLLOW UP: Draft and circulate Collaborative comments and submit by Jan 28.
- **New regulations for 2016**
 - MPA violations are now a woblette and can now be cited with infraction or misdemeanor (as of January 1st, 2016).
 - Ways to identify if it’s an infraction or misdemeanor? Enforcement agencies need to use their better judgment to cite an infraction or misdemeanor. Repeat and commercial offenders are exempt (only misdemeanor (SEE ATTACHED EXAMPLE SHEET)).

- A new technology is being developed by DFW to make it easier to know if it's a repeat offender in other areas of the County and by other crimes.
 - City of San Diego Parks Rangers brought up how Kearny Mesa Commission traffic court throws out also infractions if not deemed important enough. The Collaborative should reach out to the Kearny Mesa Courthouse as a Collaborative on this issue.
 - A good alternative for first time offenders and infractions could be *Community Court* – Violators have to do community service and a four house class. We could incorporate MPA education in those talks. Community court can only be done when infraction is in Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla area. Recommendation to Community Court can be done by City Park Rangers, Lifeguards and PD.
 - New MPA regulations were adopted in December and are going through a review process and hopefully getting pass by March. Regulations include making boundaries more accurate, clarifying language for better understanding. San Diego doesn't have big changes, except making boundaries more accurate such as in the Tijuana River Mouth SMCA.
 - FOLLOW UP: Explore Community Court idea; finish enforcement guide and circulate.
- **Signage**
 - Nine interpretive signs installed on coast, five at marinas
 - One Matlahuayl sign missing after surf/swell in December
 - Three weeks left in grant with CMSF to get replacements
 - We will discuss phase 2 after the grant expires
 - Side note: Scripps is receiving photos of the “el niño” effects and rising sea levels. Photos can be from anywhere in the coast of Southern California. Send pictures to stormphotos@sccoos.org.
 - All are invited to a beach walk and training to help document the impacts of “el niño” in your community. More information: Holly Rindge at rindge@usc.edu or call 213.740.1960
 - **Upcoming Events**
 - January 16, Underwater parks day – Celebrating MPAs in Southern California in different aquariums such as Aquarium of the Pacific, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and Heal the Bay Aquarium.

- In San Diego SEALife Aquarium (in Legoland) is hosting 7 organizations to celebrate “underwater parks day” and is having talks about MPAs.
- MPA Watch
 - Tarrant gave an MPA Watch presentation and it’s work statewide.
 - Challenges of MPA Watch in San Diego County – Crowded beaches like in La Jolla’s Matlahuayl MPA.
 - WILDCOAST will develop a boat-base MPA Watch for South La Jolla. Still need to finalize protocols.
 - Future MPA Watch projects will include wetland MPA Watch. Baticuitos Lagoon would like to get involve.
 - FOLLOW UP: Any groups need/would like to be trained on MPA Watch? Please contact tarrant@wildcoast.net
- Collaborative Strategic Planning
 - We need to develop a finalized mission statement, goals and objectives as a Collaborative, it can either be as a subcommittee or the whole Collaborative that can attend an extra meeting in February preferably.
 - Need to develop objectives and goals is to apply for local funding for future projects.
 - Set objectives and goals to align also with state agencies in Sacramento in order to work together.
 - Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is working with DFW to get a list of goals and objectives to move forward with ours, in order to align the similar goals.
 - Good way to know our goals and objectives is leveraging our strengths: Activities that we have done in the last couple of years (ex. Wobblet, informational materials, etc). List of accomplishments.
 - Special meeting for strategic planning to be for the week of February 21-23? Send out a doodle poll.
 - Future Funding opportunities: SANDAG Fred Sandquist can send link of funding opportunity he may know.
 - FOLLOW UP: Schedule February meeting and send out announcement.