

Board of Supervisors ad hoc Committee on the HBP Strategic Plan

Summary of Board Policy Issues

| Issue | Background/Discussion | Adopted Recommendations |
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| 1. Re-Title Harbors, Beaches & Parks | <p>During public outreach meetings for the strategic plan, the idea for a new name for Harbors, Beaches and Parks emerged.</p> <p>Harbors, Beaches and Parks is often referred to by its “HBP” acronym, which does not relate its core function.</p> | Harbors Beaches & Parks should be re-titled OC Parks & Beaches |
| 2. County’s Role | <p>The Recreation Element of the Orange County General Plan describes a "Regional Recreation Facilities Component" and provides specific "Characteristics of Regional Recreation Facilities." According to the General Plan, "Regional Parks offer recreational or scenic attractions that are of countywide significance and not generally available in local and municipal parks. They provide a spaciousness which the typical neighborhood or municipal park does not provide."</p> <p>Regional Park characteristics are described in the Recreation Element Goals, Objectives and Policies as follows: "Except for sites of historic, scientific, educational, special resource, of revenue-producing importance, non-coastal regional parks which are acquired prior to, or part of, the urbanization process shall be approximately 100 acres or more."</p> | <p>Affirm General Plan description of Regional Parks and direct staff to continue to implement the General Plan.</p> <p>Supervisor Moorlach also asked staff to explore the transfer of certain parks to cities in which they are located.</p> |
| 3. Harbor Patrol Funding | Per the Board's direction, Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol is funded by three sources of revenue: Dana Point Harbor Tidelands Fund 108, Newport Harbor Tidelands Fund 106 and HBP Fund 405. For the HBP share of funding, projected to be \$6.3MM in FY 07-078, the County General Fund reimburses HBP Fund 406 (Capital Projects). | Current Harbor Patrol Funding by Harbors Beaches and Parks and Dana Point Harbor Tidelands Fund 108 should be funded directly by increasing Sheriff’s Net County Cost limit and eliminating the General Fund reimbursement of HBP and Fund 108. |

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| | | <p>Direct staff to begin negotiations with the City of Newport Beach and City of Huntington Beach (individually or collectively) for transfer of funding responsibilities to those cities for harbor patrol functions and report back to the board on progress of negotiations</p> |
| <p>4. Separate Department</p> | <p>Central to the arguments made by advocates for creating a separate HBP Department was a desire for HBP to have a greater advocacy role for the planning and acquisition of more parks and open space in Orange County. HBP currently maintains planning-related staff in the areas of development review and trails which have input into, but not ultimate authority for, decisions involving the planning and development of unincorporated Orange County. Advocates for a separate department see a role for HBP of being equal to that of the RDMD Planning and Development Services function.</p> <p>While the General Plan's Recreation Element describes opportunities and constraints for the planning and development of parks and open space in Orange County, it does not define a role specifically for HBP in accomplishing the General Plan's goals. Rather, it assigns those tasks more generally to "The County of Orange." However, the General Plan specifically identifies HBP as the administrator responsible for the operations and maintenance of the County's regional recreational network.</p> | <p>In Nov. 2006, the Board considered and rejected creating a separate department for HBP.</p> <p>The Board affirmed its decision that no change in organization should be made.</p> |

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| 5. New Regional Park | <p>Most of HBP lands are located in southern and eastern O.C. composed of large regional parks used mostly for habitat and passive recreation. On balance however most of HBP's annual expenditures are in western and northern O.C. because these areas include the most actively used parks and facilities. The Board members have proposed establishment of a Fund in which the Board may allocate funds to begin building the resources necessary for the acquisition and development of a regional park facility or facilities in central and/or north Orange County. Like Fund 14V which was established as a savings account for prepayment of the County's bankruptcy debt, a regional park fund could receive HBP and County General funds that could be used for matching other grants for the creation of a new regional park in the urban core of the County.</p> <p>The General Plan provides specific direction in this regard in that it directs that "Consideration shall be given to the provision of those regional activities that are deficient in the County."</p> | The County should establish a trust fund to provide for more regional park land in central and/or north Orange County. |
| 6. Archeological-Paleontological Assets | <p>Through conditions placed on public and private development in the unincorporated areas of the County, HBP has amassed a large collection of archaeological and paleontological assets. Due to budget and staffing constraints, these assets have had little curation and public display, primarily limited to the Ralph B. Clark Regional Park Interpretive Center.</p> <p>At least one public university, (California State University, Fullerton) and other, private organizations have expressed interest in managing these assets on the County's behalf and for the public's benefit. If so directed, HBP staff will initiate the establishment of a rigorous set of standards for the protection of these public assets and invite interested parties to submit proposals for the care, management and curation of the collection. Implicit in this approach is the integration of the</p> | <p>Harbors, Beaches and Parks should find a partner for the stewardship of its archaeological and paleontological assets.</p> <p>Direct HBP to solicit proposals for curation/management and return to the Board.</p> |

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| | <p>County’s Clark Park Interpretive Center as a facility that can be used for the public display and interpretation of these assets.</p> | |
| <p>7. Regional Coordination</p> | <p>At least 94% of HBP lands are subject to habitat or other conservation restrictions. Open space in the County of Orange is managed by a variety of public and private entities, including the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust and the Rancho Mission Viejo Company. Each entity manages its lands based on their own programs and priorities. Traditionally, HBPs role and focus has been in providing recreation services to citizens and visitors of Orange County and HBP provides relatively little habitat conservation or enhancement projects. RDMD’s Planning and Development Services function has been the lead in coordinating habitat planning including the NCCP reserves. In the past, HBP has focused on keeping its facilities open and maintained daily, 365 days per year, generally during daylight hours.</p> <p>The General Plan anticipates leadership by the County in working with other land owners by declaring that "The County of Orange shall seek out partnerships and cooperative management agreements with local, state and federal agencies for more effective, efficient and cost effective management of regional recreational facilities."</p> | <p>Focus HBP on regional recreational roles, consider formation of a County conservancy(cies) and partner with conservancies for habitat management.</p> |
| <p>8. Bankruptcy Refinancing</p> | <p>A portion of the countywide property tax dedicated to regional park purposes (and Flood Control) is diverted by state law to partially finance the repayment of the County’s bankruptcy debt. The diverted revenue increases each year by the same rate of increase in the assessed valuation of all property in Orange County.</p> <p>The Committee’s understanding is that under the recent bankruptcy</p> | <p>Direct CEO staff to report to the Board on the sources and uses of bankruptcy debt repayment funds.</p> <p>Staff reported back that HBP’s payment to the bankruptcy debt was part of the overall settlement</p> |

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| | <p>recovery refinancing, the County's debt service payments are fixed for the remaining term of the County's obligations.</p> <p>If the HBP (and County Flood Control District) contributions to bankruptcy debt repayment increase each year while the overall obligation for debt service remains fixed, where are the funds associated with the annual increases attributed, or what funds' contributions to bankruptcy debt service are reduced as a result in the HBP (and Flood) increases?</p> | <p>agreement approved by the Federal bankruptcy court. Therefore, no changes could be made.</p> |