

From: [Priscilla Rocco](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Supporting the Beekeeping Ordinance
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:42:37 PM

City Council,

Thank you Councilwoman Marr and Reynolds for supporting an ordinance allowing beekeeping in Costa Mesa. If I am any example, I think this ordinance will apply mostly to people who already have bees in their garden - whether in a trash can like mine, or in a proper hive where the honey is harvested. These honey bees were attracted to my garden because it is full of traditional fruit trees, fruit and vegetable plants, and lots and lots of flowers. They liked my garden and I liked that they pollinated my garden. My goal has always been to give the bees a home and all the pollen and nectar they want, so they can raise more bees for the environment. I realize there will be a process to go through and fees to pay with this ordinance, but I'm willing to do that so I can continue raising bees.

The process for attracting native bees is not as automatic, but just as important because they too are declining due to habitat loss. Since native bees and native plants evolved together, you must plant the right native plants to attract native bees. I have gardened for more than 50 years, but this is a learning process for me, as I'm sure it is for others. Quite a while ago I started planting more drought tolerant plants, and now I'm transitioning to more natives. The more folks plant native plants, the more I hope we will see native bees making a comeback. It's mostly an issue of educating people.

Some have questioned whether the native bees will be challenged by my honey bees. I don't know. I guess I will learn as I plant more and more natives. But I tend to think that if I have the right mix of natives and other plants, things will work out. The whole idea is that our gardens can be planted to make up for the habitat loss of many creatures. Many people are planting native milkweed in their gardens to help the Monarchs. Once the neighbors saw the Monarchs in my garden every summer, they planted native milkweed too to help the species and enjoy their beauty.

Now here are a few facts you may not know about bees. Worldwide there are over 20,000 species of bees. 75% of all bees are solitary bees, and 70% of those make nests in the ground in vacant rodent holes or other

cavities. Solitary bees don't produce honey, they eat pollen and nectar, and pollinate many native plants. The two types of bees that make honey are social bees that live in groups: Bumble bees are native to North America and live underground: and honey bees were brought here from Europe and live above ground in hives. So you see, European honey bees are actually the minority, but they are often the only bee people hear about.

Priscilla Rocco
Costa Mesa

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From: [Ian](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Cc: decision.makers@change.org
Subject: Costa Mesa City Council, did you hear us?
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 7:45:07 PM

Dear Costa Mesa City Council,

Please stop this unnecessary plan.

I am supporting a petition called "Halt the Parking Restrictions on Santa Ana Ave in East Side Costa Mesa" started by Benny Hallock:

https://www.change.org/p/halt-the-parking-restrictions-on-santa-ana-ave-in-east-side-costa-mesa?utm_source=supporter_emails_dm

You have been identified as a decision maker on this petition so I am reaching out to you for a response. What is your opinion about this petition? You can respond by replying to this email.

Thanks for reading,

P.S. Check out services for decision makers: https://www.change.org/decision-makers?utm_source=supporter_emails_dm

Thank you,
Ian Young
949-697-8677

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From: [Turner, Jennifer@Wildlife](mailto:Turner.Jennifer@Wildlife)
To: [DALTON, KELLY M.](#)
Subject: Fly Field Closure
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:51:09 AM
Attachments: [Draft FVP Flying Field Closure Report March 2023.docx](#)

Hello Kelly,

In response to our conversation a few weeks ago and our most recent email exchange, CDFW would be supportive if the City was to eliminate the model aircraft flying activity in Fairview Park. As a State Trustee Agency for natural resources sees the current activities at Fairview Park as potentially adverse to a variety of sensitive plant and wildlife species as well as valuable habitat types, including vernal pools, coastal sage scrub, and riparian vegetation. Currently, the designated model aircraft flying area directly overlaps with these habitats.

Sensitive wildlife species are found in and adjacent to the designated flying area, including burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC)), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*; Fully Protected), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*; SSC), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*; SSC, Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed-threatened), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*; Federal ESA listed-endangered), and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*; Federal ESA listed-endangered). Sensitive plant species in and adjacent to the flying area include San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*; California Endangered Species Act listed-endangered, Federal ESA listed-endangered, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1), Orcutt's grass (*Orcuttia californica*; Federal ESA listed-endangered, CRPR 1B.1), , prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*; CRPR 1B.2), and small-flowered microseris (*Microseris douglasii* ssp. *platycarpha*; CRPR 4.2).

CDFW would like to express our support for full closure of the flying field due to impacts to sensitive biological resources. Small, unmanned aircraft have high potential to disturb sensitive avian species and can cause physiological stress and decreases in reproduction and survival (Mulero-Pázmány et al., 2017). We are especially concerned about impacts to raptor species which forage on the mesa near the flying field and may mistake a model craft for a competing predator. Smaller birds such as coastal California gnatcatcher may also identify craft as birds of prey; similar instances with other species have occurred locally. For example, in 2021, a drone crash led to the abandonment of approximately 1,500 elegant tern nests at CDFW-owned-and-managed Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, only seven miles northwest of Fairview Park. We are concerned that continued operation of the flying field could lead to similar direct and indirect impacts to sensitive avian resources there.

Fairview Park supports one of the last coastal terrace vernal pools complexes in Orange County. Conservation and management of the San Diego fairy shrimp and its habitat in Fairview Park and other vernal pool complexes in the Los Angeles Basin-Orange Management Area is one of the criteria identified for recovery of the San Diego fairy shrimp in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California. Vernal pools in Fairview Park also support several plant species that are locally rare (City 2008; Chung 2010). Model aircraft activity at the flying field results in degradation of vernal pool habitats at Fairview Park when uncontrolled landings and associated vegetation trampling occur. For the above reasons, CDFW would be in support of a closure which

would eliminate this source of pedestrian disturbance for the sensitive habitats present on site.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this email please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Turner

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

South Coast Region 5

3883 Ruffin Road

San Diego, CA 92123

Office: (858) 467-2717

Mobile: (858) 539-9109

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Board Members:

Kim Hendricks
President

Priscilla Rocco
Treasurer & Secretary

Jason Komala
Web Master

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P.O. Box 2471
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2471

E-Mail Address:

info@fairviewparkalliance.org

Website:

www.fairviewparkalliance.org

July 16, 2024

Dear Mayor Stephens and City Council Members,

Fairview Park Alliance (FPA) is very concerned about the vote city council made on May 2, 2023 to allow glider planes to launch and fly in the vernal pool complex watershed ignoring recommendations from USFW, CDFW, city contracted biologist, city committee, and community members. The president of the HSS at the time, Mr. Mat Garcia claimed that it was "only city staff" that did not want them flying in Fairview Park and all other agencies supported them being there.

This is simply not true and you knew it since the recommendations were included in the staff report. I have included their recommendations in my PowerPoint presentation and hope you read them again since their analysis has not changed. Why did you ignore the agency recommendations?

Mr. Garcia also claimed that USFW had no problem with HSS being in Fairview Park and thought flying in Fairview Park was compatible. This also is simply not true and I have included the email from USFW from May 4, 2023 stating that ANY glider planes would kick the birds out and it was their understanding that the flying would be relocated.

Why didn't you listen to the scientific experts, city contracted biologist, city staff, and the city committee? Don't you respect USFW or CDFW? Don't you trust the biologist or city staff you hired? This year agreement with HSS started in July 2023 and would have come before you this July or August for review but FPA has learned that the city manager extended the agreement for another 6 months without a public announcement or public input. This is another six months of degradation of the vernal pool watershed that will kick the birds out. Why was this extension made behind closed doors with the flyers?

FPA has documented the glider plane presence in Fairview Park per USFW recommendations and have documented HSS taking out a keystone species, Fascicled Tarplant, in a biologically sensitive habitat, trampling the native plants outside their designated area, and making new trails in the vernal pool watershed. HSS has historically degraded the sensitive habitat with the city's help.

I have shared these photos with you throughout the year to no avail. You all seem unmoved by this destruction, but the community isn't.

After your motion on May 2, 2023 a petition was started by a Costa Mesa resident and in two weeks there were 380 signatures supporting the removal of the flyers from Fairview Park. That is more signatures than HSS has followers on their Facebook page.

Fairview Park Alliance has over 800 members on Facebook.

HSS is a handful of Costa Mesa residents that have been allowed to do whatever they want in Fairview Park for years. HSS says they have been serving the community for 50 years. If so, then why does their membership decline annually?

With natural open park space dwindling, why does city council and the city manager allow a small group of hobbyists to destroy sensitive habitat and take away natural open space from the whole community? Why does city council and the city manager spend tax payers money to monitor this activity? Why did city council listen to misinformation from HSS and ignore the scientific experts?

With the recent Fairview Park Master Plan (FPMP) consultant findings, the Fairview Park Steering Committee (FVPSC) has recommended that glider planes be relocated outside of Fairview Park. Will you ignore them too? They are members of the community who care about Fairview Park's ecosystems for all generations. Why do you continue to ignore scientific findings and allow this small group of hobbyists to continue their destruction?

The City of Costa Mesa has a responsibility to the community and to federal and state agencies to protect Fairview Park's endangered and threatened species.

“While accommodating public uses within Fairview Park, it is the City’s responsibility to ensure that its actions comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (USFW letter to City Engineer and Project Manager Mr. Baltazar Mejia dated July 24, 2014)

With each update to the FPMP, items have been deleted because of their incompatibility with the overall passive natural park.

“The plans involved a range of activities gradually moving to more passive uses in each successive plan.” (FPMP p. 8)

“The overwhelming consensus is to continue a park for passive use by individuals and small groups and to enhance the natural environment of the park for those uses and as a habitat preserve.” (FPMP p.25)

“However, the overall policy direction for passive, natural preservation and restoration is to guide all detail development decisions.” (FPMP p.28)

The FPMP talks about the uniqueness of Fairview Park’s vernal pools. It also talks about how some public use can degrade habitats which would go against the overall goal of the city and community to restore and protect habitat. The FPMP states it clearly:

“The southern area has potential habitat but is adjacent to school and residential areas and is highly disturbed by pedestrian and model airplane activity. (FPMP p. 154)

It is evident to experts AND the majority of the community that glider planes discourage wildlife and degrade habitat. FPA asks that you stop the destruction since HSS already has 5 other places to fly outside of Fairview Park.

Kim Hendricks
Fairview Park Alliance – President

From: Barry Nerhus <bnerhus@endemicenvironmental.net>
Date: February 24, 2023 at 11:50:33 AM PST
To: "DALTON, KELLY M." <KELLY.DALTON@costamesaca.gov>
Subject: Response to the Fly Field Impacts to Fairview Park

Hey Kelly,

In response to your question of how the fly field directly and indirectly impacts natural resources and wildlife, I have a few responses and observations, over the past 14 years that I have been working at Fairview Park.

The actual fly field itself was graded in an area that contains the largest remaining vernal pool complex in coastal southern California. The grading activity directly impacts the watershed of the vernal pools, a critical component for the vernal pool ecosystem. This vernal pool ecosystem and surrounding grassland harbors the following species that are of great conservation concern that should be considered:

Riverside Fairy Shrimp - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
San Diego Fairy Shrimp - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
Orcutt's Grass - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
San Diego Button Celery - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
Mud Nama - Rare Plant with only a few populations remaining in Orange County
Little Mousetail - Rare Plant and the only population documented in Orange County
Vernal Barley - Rare Plant
Prostrate Navarretia - Rare Plant, may be the largest population in Orange County
Small-flowered microseris - Rare Plant
Burrowing Owl - Species of Special Concern and severely declining
White-tailed Kite - California Fully Protected Species and also severely declining
Northern Harrier - Species of Special Concern
California Gnatcatcher - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act

There are other important native wildlife and habitats that I can include, but this list I hope gets the point. When you have these many species together, it shows how rare and important the area is to biodiversity and conservation, which is the reason for efforts such as Measure AA, updating the Master Plan, community-based habitat restoration events, community led steering committees, hiring experts to consult and manage the rare species, and also the Fairview Park administrator position to coordinate all of these activities. This is all in the direction of 10,000s of hours of effort and many millions of dollars going to planning, maintaining, restoring and conserving the Park.

The fly field has directly affected the vernal pool watershed. Indirectly, there have been plane crashes observed on a weekly basis by R/C aircraft pilots. It makes sense, especially if you are learning. I believe the Soaring Society states that they train people, which would increase the risk of crashing a plane. I've observed these crashes and people retrieving their planes from vernal pools, the bluff area, and also in the coastal sage scrub. These impacts on a weekly basis pose a

threat to degrading these rare ecosystems. We already know that the bluff is eroding and needs restoration, so this is only an increased impact to the bluff. These impacts only take from the vision of managing the park for the natural resources.

Moreover, the noise that many of the high performance R/C aircraft produce is over the recommended decibel level for nesting birds (60 Db). USFWS biologist, Christine Medak, concurred with me that the noise is over the limit for the federally-listed California gnatcatcher that nests in the coastal sage scrub areas. The noise level is an indirect effect that causes impact to birds. Noise typically can change behavior in bird calls. This could be considered 'take' under the Endangered Species Act, if the California gnatcatcher is harassed by this noise.

One basic study was conducted for R/C Planes impacting avian activity. This was through our ICRE AP Environmental Science Field Study Program. Our students documented the presence and abundance of birds when R/C planes were present and also when they were absent. Birds were counted and categorized by size (since the students didn't know all the species). The study concluded that when R/C Planes were present or absent birds of prey and large birds were present. However, small birds were absent when planes were flying. This can be interpreted that the active fly field is disrupting the behavior of many small birds, which is a direct impact.

In summary, I believe the fly field impacts Fairview Park's natural resources by changing the watershed of the vernal pools, trespassing into sensitive habitat and off trail, creating loud noise above the acceptable limit for the federally-listed California gnatcatcher, and impacting general avian behavior.

As an airplane pilot, I have a passion for aviation and the continued growth of the aviation community (even as a tool for conservation). However, I do not think the recreational activities at the fly field is a part of the mission of managing Fairview Park for the natural resources and recovery of endangered species.

Let me know if you want me to clarify anything.

Thanks!

--

Barry Nerhus
President/Principal Ecologist
Endemic Environmental Services, Inc.
(714) 393-6249
www.endemicenvironmental.net



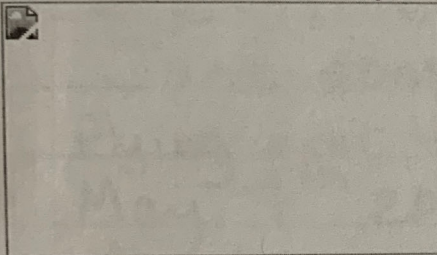
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Kim,

We have been coordinating with City staff to develop recommendations for the City Council. While in the past we have said that it may be possible to have certain types of quiet planes (i.e., gliders) in Fairview Park at certain times of the year, and under certain conditions, we have not advocated for model plane use in the park. Recent drone use by Orange County Vector Control was monitored by biologists and clearly demonstrates that use of the drone flushed birds from the vernal pools. Use of drones to control mosquitos results in a temporary disturbance to birds and addresses a human health concern. Regular use of model planes can displace birds from the vernal pools or their watersheds. City staff also have these reports and it was my understanding that they were recommending to have the flying field relocated.

Christine L. Medak
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Office: 760-431-9440, ext 298
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

Check out our annual report





"I'd like to offer a plug for actually having the natural processes instead of having to simulate them."
— Nadav Nur, PRBO Conservation Science

From: Kim Hendricks <kimhendricks26@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 6:03 PM
To: Medak, Christine <Christine_Medak@fws.gov>
Cc: Snyder, Jonathan <Jonathan_d_Snyder@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fairview Park vernal pools

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2 attachments

-  **04.19.2023_Fairview Park_Drone Monitoring Field Report.pdf**
1008K
-  **04.03.2023_Fairview Park_Drone Monitoring Field Report.pdf**
129K

From: [Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Cc: [Climate Reality Project Orange County](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #24-286
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:25:29 AM

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

I reside in Huntington Beach, one of the four founding cities of the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA). Sadly, my city council made the decision to leave OCPA, and we are now seeing the negative aftermath of that decision. I urge the Costa Mesa City Council to vote YES on the agenda item to study joining OC's local nonprofit energy provider, at the next city council meeting this evening.

OCPA allows your city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps ratepayer dollars *in your community for your community*. The OCPA basic rate plan is 3% lower than SCE's, leading to savings on energy bills. Ratepayers can't currently access SCE's renewable energy plan, because it is oversubscribed. With OCPA, your residents and businesses would finally have the **choice** to access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if you choose 100% renewable as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, everyone needs energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request!

Sincerely,

Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire
Resident of Huntington Beach

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From: [Jake Comer](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: agenda item #24-286
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:56:24 AM

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

I was born and raised in Costa Mesa and have always loved this City. A few years ago I moved to the City of Orange and founded the Orange Sustainability Group to work alongside the City of Orange to promote sustainability and climate action. I look to my hometown's progress towards a more sustainable Costa Mesa as an inspiration for Orange. However, the City will not be able to reach any climate goals and provide clean energy to its residents, my family and friends, without joining the OCPA. This is why I urge the City Council to at the very least **vote YES on agenda item #24-286**, to study joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), OC's local nonprofit energy provider.

OCPA allows for electricity choice and enables our city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for our residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps our ratepayer dollars *in* our community *for* our community. The OCPA basic rate generation plan is 3% lower than SCE's, which will help Costa Mesa residents and businesses save on energy bills. SCE's renewable energy plan is oversubscribed. OCPA would finally provide an opportunity to be able to access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if the 100% renewable is chosen as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, we need energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request!

Sincerely,
Jake Comer
Orange Sustainability Group
Costa Mesa born and raised

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From: [Craig Preston](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Comment on New Business, File #: 24-286, OCPA - FEASIBILITY STUDY
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:41:38 PM

Hello City Council,
I support a YES vote.
THANK YOU for agendaing the OCPA Feasibility Study and inviting Joe Mosca, CEO of OCPA to present.

I am aware that CCAs (Community Choice Aggregators) are becoming more popular as people learn they can have more CHOICE in the sources of their electricity. I have only had one choice right now: Southern California Edison. I asked them 2 weeks ago to move me to renewable energy and was told the program has a "waiting list", seemingly a very long one.

CCA's are doing good work all over California. In total, they have contracted for over [14,000 Megawatts of new clean energy projects](#) for California customers, greening the entire California grid.

Sooner the better for us to have the benefits of clean, affordable, reliable electricity in Costa Mesa. Let's be a model to other cities in OC, California and the world.

Thanks again,
Craig

Craig Preston
Resident of Costa Mesa
[\(714\) 473-2798](tel:7144732798) CraigP4444@gmail.com

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Eco Now, LLC
Email: contact@econowca.com
Office Phone: 657-201-8172
Office Address: 2930 Bristol St, Unit A102, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Website: www.EcoNowCA.com

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

As a Costa Mesa business owner, I urge the City Council to vote YES on agenda item #24-286, to study joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), OC's local nonprofit energy provider, at the next city council meeting on July 16th.

OCPA allows for electricity choice and enables our city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for our residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps our ratepayer dollars in our community for our community. The OCPA basic rate generation plan is 3% lower than SCE's, which will help Costa Mesa residents and businesses save on energy bills. My business cannot access SCE's renewable energy plan, because it is oversubscribed. With OCPA, my business would finally be able to access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if you choose 100% renewable as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, we need energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request!

Sincerely,
Thea & Tom Pauley



From: [Nicole ARTime](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: OCPA
Date: Sunday, July 14, 2024 10:28:17 PM

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

As a Costa Mesa business owner, I urge the City Council to vote YES on agenda item #24-286, to study joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), OC's local nonprofit energy provider, at the next city council meeting on July 16th.

OCPA allows for electricity choice and enables our city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for our residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps our ratepayer dollars *in* our community *for* our community. The OCPA basic rate generation plan is 3% lower than SCE's, which will help Costa Mesa residents and businesses save on energy bills. My business cannot access SCE's renewable energy plan, because it is oversubscribed. With OCPA, my business would finally be able to access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if you choose 100% renewable as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, we need energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request!

Sincerely,

Nicole Peredo of ARTime BARRO
www.artimebarro.com

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July 16, 2024
Via Email

Costa Mesa City Council
City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
citycouncil@costamesaca.gov
loriann@costamesaca.gov

Dear Members of the City Council and City Manager Farrell Harrison:

I have a number of questions regarding New Business Item #1 for this week's City Council agenda:

- A feasibility study for the City of Costa Mesa using Southern California Edison (SCE) load data was prepared *by a third party consultant* in 2020, back when the City was first considering OCPA membership. See the prior agenda item supplementary memo: <http://ftp.costamesaca.gov/costamesaca/council/agenda/2020/2020-11-17/PH-2-MEMO.pdf>. Why is the City not engaging a third party consultant now to run a similar feasibility study?
- The City of Costa Mesa voted to join OCPA at the end of 2020, so Costa Mesa membership must have appeared feasible from OCPA's perspective as of that time. What variables since 2020 may have changed such that Costa Mesa's membership may now be *infeasible* from OCPA's perspective? In other words, what is OCPA hoping to find in Costa Mesa's more recent load data?
- If the purpose of the study is, in whole or in part, to determine if OCPA membership would be beneficial *to the ratepayers of the City of Costa Mesa*, why would the City rely on such a study prepared by its potential counterparty (and SCE competitor)?
- Why does the "History of OCPA" section of the Agenda Report omit key developments regarding OCPA since it was last considered by the City Council? The following developments have been well covered in the local media, and I believe they should have been highlighted by the report in order to complete the narrative discussion of what has taken place since Costa Mesa since reviewed OCPA membership:
 - [Lake Forest's decision to leave OCPA in July 2021](#);
 - The resignation of OCPA's inaugural chief operating officer (and well respected clean power advocate) [Antonia Castro Graham in December 2021](#);
 - The release of the [Orange County Grand Jury report "Orange County Power Authority: Come Clean" in June 2022](#), which criticized OCPA's leadership and transparency;
 - [The County of Orange's decision to leave OCPA in December 2022](#);
 - [The release of the State of California audit report in February 2023](#), which found a "pattern a pattern of contracting practices that were noncompetitive and that

reduced accountability by repeatedly circumventing and violating its own policies”;

- [The fine of OCPA by the CA Public Utilities Commission of almost \\$2 million in April 2023](#) for failing to purchase sufficient energy contracts to supply customers in the Summer of 2022;
 - [The firing of CEO Brian Probolsky in April 2023](#), and the subsequent hiring of Joe Mosca as the replacement CEO; and
 - [Huntington Beach’s decision to leave OCPA in May 2023](#), which was finalized as of July 1, 2024. ***This omission is especially concerning given that the Agenda Report states that Huntington Beach was one of the inaugural member cities of OCPA but does not go on to clarify it has since left the program.***
- Given OCPA’s difficult first few years, does the City have a strong basis to believe that OCPA, under the leadership of new CEO Joe Mosca, has significantly strengthened its financial position as well as its internal controls?
 - Is there a reason to pursue OCPA membership now as opposed to a later date? I would note that, not only has OCPA’s leadership recently changed, it also has not yet built up sufficient cash reserves to secure an investment-grade credit rating. While recent financial reports suggest OCPA’s cash reserve is growing, I would be curious to understand why Costa Mesa would want to join OCPA before it has the ability to secure bond financing at favorable rates.
 - Are any other Orange County cities presently pursuing the “feasibility study” process with OCPA?
 - Have the “representatives of OCPA” that approached the City and recommended pursuing this course of action indicated the level of OCPA board participation that would be offered to the City of Costa Mesa if it were to become a member city?

I understand that the City may view such detailed analysis and background as premature at this point given that the City Council is only being asked to weigh in on a nondisclosure agreement covering SCE load data.

I would contend, however, **that OCPA appears to be highly motivated to find that the City’s membership is feasible given that other cities have decided to leave OCPA and OCPA’s business model depends on economies of scale.** Therefore, given that OCPA is very likely to find that Costa Mesa’s membership is feasible from OCPA’s perspective, and that there is little reason to rely on OCPA’s analysis to determine feasibility from *the City’s* perspective, I would hope that the City has at least a minimum level of conviction regarding OCPA membership before it would embark on any OCPA-led feasibility study process.

Best,
Jenn Tanaka
321 Broadway
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

From: [Tristan Miller](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Vote Yes to Study Joining OCPA #24-286
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 3:41:48 PM

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

I work part-time and shop in Costa Mesa; I urge the City Council to vote YES on agenda item #24-286 to study joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), OC's local nonprofit energy provider, at the next city council meeting on July 16th. The freedom of energy choice and renewable energy is important to our community.

OCPA allows for electricity choice and enables our city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for our residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps our ratepayer dollars *in* our community *for* our community. The OCPA basic rate generation plan is 3% lower than SCE's, which will help Costa Mesa residents and businesses save on energy bills. My business cannot access SCE's renewable energy plan, because it is oversubscribed. With OCPA, my business could finally access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if you choose 100% renewable as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, we need energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our community!

Sincerely,

Tristan Miller
Superior Ave, Newport Beach, CA

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From: [Pilar's Wellness Collective](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Item #24-286
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 1:13:53 PM

Dear Costa Mesa Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Harlan, and City Council Members,

As a Costa Mesa business owner, I urge the City Council to vote YES on agenda item #24-286, to study joining the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA), OC's local nonprofit energy provider, at the next city council meeting on July 16th.

OCPA allows for electricity choice and enables our city to convert to renewable energy faster, which reduces pollution, improving the health and quality of life for our residents in so many ways. OCPA keeps our ratepayer dollars *in* our community *for* our community. The OCPA basic rate generation plan is 3% lower than SCE's, which will help Costa Mesa residents and businesses save on energy bills. My business cannot access SCE's renewable energy plan, because it is oversubscribed. With OCPA, my business would finally be able to access 100% renewable energy each month, especially if you choose 100% renewable as our city's default rate.

Community Choice Energy is key to meeting bold carbon-neutrality goals and a local clean-energy economy. With both global temps and utility rates rising, we need energy choice and the lower basic rate that OCPA offers!

Considering all this, please move forward in the process of joining OCPA as a member city, by pursuing the study of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration of my urgent request!

Sincerely,
Pilar Chandler
Pilar's Wellness Collective

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HSS Misinformation

- May 2, 2023 HSS President claimed USFW did not think that flying in Fairview Park was incompatible and it was “only city staff” that thought it was incompatible.

From: Turner, Jennifer@Wildlife
To: DALTON, KELLY M.
Subject: Fly Field Closure
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:51:09 AM
Attachments: Draft FVP Flying Field Closure Report March 2023.docx

Hello Kelly,

In response to our conversation a few weeks ago and our most recent email exchange, CDFW would be supportive if the City was to eliminate the model aircraft flying activity in Fairview Park. As a State Trustee Agency for natural resources sees the current activities at Fairview Park as potentially adverse to a variety of sensitive plant and wildlife species as well as valuable habitat types, including vernal pools, coastal sage scrub, and riparian vegetation. Currently, the designated model aircraft flying area directly overlaps with these habitats.

Sensitive wildlife species are found in and adjacent to the designated flying area, including burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC)), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*; Fully Protected), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*; SSC), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*; SSC, Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed-threatened), San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*; Federal ESA listed-endangered), and Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*; Federal ESA listed-endangered). Sensitive plant species in and adjacent to the flying area include San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*; California Endangered Species Act listed-endangered, Federal ESA listed-endangered, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1), Orcutt's grass (*Orcuttia californica*; Federal ESA listed-endangered, CRPR 1B.1), , prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*; CRPR 1B.2), and small-flowered microseris (*Microseris douglasii* ssp. *platycarpa*; CRPR 4.2).

CDFW would like to express our support for full closure of the flying field due to impacts to sensitive biological resources. Small, unmanned aircraft have high potential to disturb sensitive avian species and can cause physiological stress and decreases in reproduction and survival (Mulero-Pázmány et al., 2017). We are especially concerned about impacts to raptor species which forage on the mesa near the flying field and may mistake a model craft for a competing predator. Smaller birds such as coastal California gnatcatcher may also identify craft as birds of prey; similar instances with other species have occurred locally. For example, in 2021, a drone crash led to the abandonment of approximately 1,500 elegant tern nests at CDFW-owned-and-managed Bolsa Chica Ecological approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Fairview Park. We are concerned that continued operation of

would eliminate this source of pedestrian disturbance for the sensitive habitats present on site.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this email please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Turner

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

South Coast Region 5

3883 Ruffin Road

San Diego, CA 92123

Office: (858) 467-2717

Mobile: (858) 539-9109

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From: Barry Nerhus <bnerhus@endemicenvironmental.net>
Date: February 24, 2023 at 11:50:33 AM PST
To: "DALTON, KELLY M." <KELLY.DALTON@costamesaca.gov>
Subject: Response to the Fly Field Impacts to Fairview Park

Hey Kelly,

In response to your question of how the fly field directly and indirectly impacts natural resources and wildlife, I have a few responses and observations, over the past 14 years that I have been working at Fairview Park.

The actual fly field itself was graded in an area that contains the largest remaining vernal pool complex in coastal southern California. The grading activity directly impacts the watershed of the vernal pools, a critical component for the vernal pool ecosystem. This vernal pool ecosystem and surrounding grassland harbors the following species that are of great conservation concern that should be considered:

- Riverside Fairy Shrimp - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
- San Diego Fairy Shrimp - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Orcutt's Grass - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
- San Diego Button Celery - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Mud Nama - Rare Plant with only a few populations remaining in Orange County
- Little Mousetail - Rare Plant and the only population documented in Orange County
- Vernal Barley - Rare Plant
- Prostrate Navarretia - Rare Plant, may be the largest population in Orange County
- Small-flowered microsaris - Rare Plant
- Burrowing Owl - Species of Special Concern and severely declining
- White-tailed Kite - California Fully Protected Species and also severely declining
- Northern Harrier - Species of Special Concern
- California Gnatcatcher - Federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act

There are other important native wildlife and habitats that I can include, but this list I hope gets the point. When you have these many species together, it shows how rare and important the area is to biodiversity and conservation, which is the reason for efforts such as Measure AA, updating the Master Plan, community-based habitat restoration events, community led steering committees, hiring experts to consult and manage the rare species, and also the Fairview Park administrator position to coordinate all of these activities. This is all in the direction of 10,000s of hours of effort and many millions of dollars going to planning, maintaining, restoring and conserving the Park.

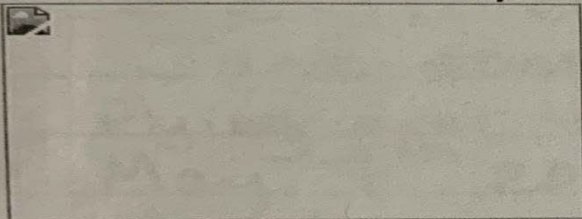
The fly field has directly affected the vernal pool watershed. Indirectly, there have been plane

Kim,

We have been coordinating with City staff to develop recommendations for the City Council. While in the past we have said that it may be possible to have certain types of quiet planes (i.e., gliders) in Fairview at certain times of the year, and under certain conditions, we have not advocated for model plane use at the park. Recent drone use by Orange County Vector Control was monitored by biologists and clearly demonstrates that use of the drone flushed birds from the vernal pools. Use of drones to control mosquitoes results in a temporary disturbance to birds and addresses a human health concern. Regular use of model planes can displace birds from the vernal pools or their watersheds. City staff also have these reports and was my understanding that they were recommending to have the flying field relocated.

Christine L. Medak
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Office: 760-431-9440, ext 298
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

Check out our annual report



"I'd like to offer a plug for actually having the natural processes instead of having to simulate them."
— Nadav Nur, PRBO Conservation Science

From: Kim Hendricks <kimhendricks26@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 6:03 PM
To: Medak, Christine <Christine_Medak@fws.gov>
Cc: Snyder, Jonathan <Jonathan_d_Snyder@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fairview Park vernal pools

threat to degrading these rare ecosystems. We already know that the bluff is eroding and needs restoration, so this is only an increased impact to the bluff. These impacts only take from the vision of managing the park for the natural resources.

Moreover, the noise that many of the high performance R/C aircraft produce is over the recommended decibel level for nesting birds (60 Db). USFWS biologist, Christine Medak, concurred with me that the noise is over the limit for the federally-listed California gnatcatcher that nests in the coastal sage scrub areas. The noise level is an indirect effect that causes impact to birds. Noise typically can change behavior in bird calls. This could be considered 'take' under the Endangered Species Act, if the California gnatcatcher is harassed by this noise.

One basic study was conducted for R/C Planes impacting avian activity. This was through our ICRE AP Environmental Science Field Study Program. Our students documented the presence and abundance of birds when R/C planes were present and also when they were absent. Birds were counted and categorized by size (since the students didn't know all the species). The study concluded that when R/C Planes were present or absent birds of prey and large birds were present. However, small birds were absent when planes were flying. This can be interpreted that the active fly field is disrupting the behavior of many small birds, which is a direct impact.

In summary, I believe the fly field impacts Fairview Park's natural resources by changing the watershed of the vernal pools, trespassing into sensitive habitat and off trail, creating loud noise above the acceptable limit for the federally-listed California gnatcatcher, and impacting general avian behavior.

As an airplane pilot, I have a passion for aviation and the continued growth of the aviation community (even as a tool for conservation). However, I do not think the recreational activities at the fly field is a part of the mission of managing Fairview Park for the natural resources and recovery of endangered species.

Let me know if you want me to clarify anything.

Thanks!

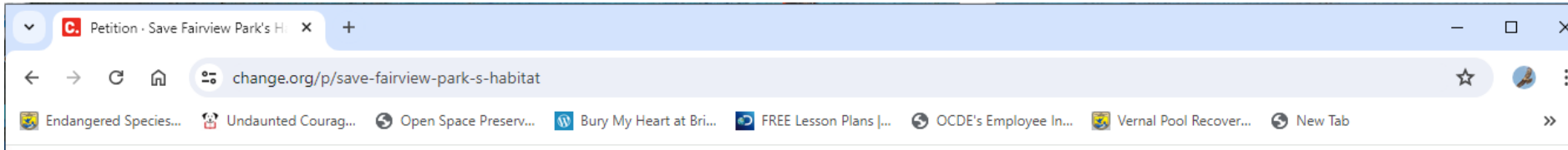
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Barry Nerhus
President/Principal Ecologist
Endemic Environmental Services, Inc.
(714) 393-6249
www.endemicenvironmental.net



Endemic

CHANGE.ORG



Save Fairview Park's Habitat



Started July 15, 2023


Why this petition matters

386

Signatures

500

Next Goal

 Support now

Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 114 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

Take the next step!



The Fairview Park restoration process needs your support. Please show your support to end a legacy use that causes long-term degradation. Since the City was hit with COVID, most park activities were halted with the observed benefit of wildlife thriving in the park including the area previously used by hobby plane and glider flyers. Three years from that shut down, the Costa Mesa City Council has gone out of their way to direct staff to resume glider flying against the findings of impact studies, the advice of City staff, and the recommendations of the Fairview Park Steering Committee. As of July 15, native plants have been cleared from the runway and the park is open to model gliding two days per month. Observed historical impacts of the hobby include compacted soil and trampled vegetation, walking in protected vernal pools for retrieval of planes, intimidation of migratory and nesting birds, and harassing of others walking in the park.

Signing this petition is a show of support for ending hobby glider flying in Fairview Park. The Council needs to be aware that a handful of hobbyists largely from outside of Costa Mesa should not supersede the needs of the park restoration, vulnerable wildlife and the wishes of Costa Mesa residents.

HSS Facebook



Harbor Soaring Society - HSS

190 likes • 208 followers

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Intro

Harbor Soaring Society is the oldest AMA Chartered Soaring club in the United States. HSS was founded in 1964 at what is now Fairview Park.

 Page Community

Posts

 Filters



Harbor Soaring Society - HSS

July 10 at 11:11 AM · 



A Special Meeting of the Fairview Park Steering Committee is happening tonight, Wednesday 7/10/2024, at Costa Mesa City Hall, starting at 6:00pm. The meeting will focus on the update to the



FPA Facebook

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook group page for the Fairview Park Alliance. The page is viewed from a desktop perspective. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Facebook logo, a search icon, and several utility icons (home, group, video, calendar, grid, messages, notifications, profile). Below the navigation bar, the group's profile information is displayed: a profile picture of a bird, the name "Fairview Park Alliance", and the text "Private group · 818 members". There are two tabs: "Chats" and "Manage 3", with "Manage 3" being the active tab. The main content area features a large cover photo of a bird of prey in flight against a blue sky. Below the cover photo, the group name "Fairview Park Alliance" is repeated, along with "Private group · 818 members" and a row of member profile pictures. On the right side of the group name, there are "Edit" and "Invite" buttons. The left sidebar contains navigation options: "Community home", "Overview", "Admin tools" (with an upward arrow), "Community Chats" (with 3 chat suggestions), "Admin Assist" (with 3 actions and 3 criteria), and "Member requests". At the bottom of the sidebar is a green button that says "+ Create a chat".

City of Costa Mesa Permits Issued:

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
						(as of 02/30/20)
RESIDENTS	66	58	61	37	34	21
NON-RESIDENTS	288	275	237	190	155	88
TOTAL	354	333	298	227	189	109

Handful of Hobbyists



Destroying a keystone species



Project of the Month

As was reported previously, HSS was awarded a field improvement grant from the AMA, to widen the west end of the existing runway by about 70 feet to provide greater separation between glider launching and power planes. We have club member Rami Awwad acting as general contractor for the project. Henry signed a contract with Abraham Jeon (known as AJ) of HYM Engineering (an associate of Rami's), and work officially got started on 28 July.



John Anderson has provided a few photos of the field grading. On the top right, we have AJ and Miguel the tractor operator, getting started. Center, Miguel is hard at work moving dirt. Work was finished on 30 July. On the right, we have all the supervisors giving their approval and the pay check to AJ. Left to right is Robert Staples, Karl Hawley, Miguel (the operator), AJ (the contractor), and Henry Smith. The cost of this grading was about \$5,200. The next step is to place concrete winch pads for two winches and their respective turn-around pulleys.





Also, the photo below shows what happens when a (sacrificial) airplane gets too close to a roller - it gives new meaning to the term "profile airplane".

(Provided by Rob Askegaard, our ever faithful photog.) Here are some pictures taken Saturday, Aug 15 showing work being done on the field. The guys should be happy as clams tomorrow when they come out to fly. I show Walt Cloer driving the roller and our president Henry Smith driving the truck and water trailer. Henry later also drove the roller. The roller did a great job of mashing down the stones and rocks and leveling out the contour of the field. It is much smoother and more solid - overall a big improvement. The widened area of the field has also been improved but isn't as hard a surface as the regular portion of the field. The airplanes should have an easier job taking off and landing.







Fairview Park Before Degrading



Destroying Habitat



The white glider plane landed in the brush outside of the marked area and HSS trampled through







The birds watched the destruction of their home



2003 Vernal Pools on West Side



