

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks' Comments to the
County of Orange
Harbors, Beaches and Parks Draft Strategic Plan

In order for the plan to have credibility and truly be used as a plan of action it is imperative that the following concerns be properly addressed:

Role of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

- Clarify HBP's management structure and responsibilities and ensure that the department has the needed resources (personnel, funding) to fulfill the leadership role it is entitled to and that county residents support; clearly define the parameters of that leadership role and how it relates to decisions/policies that impact OC parks and open space.
- Strengthen HBP's charter as a manager, steward and advocate for parks and open space. Do not spend taxpayer dollars to outsource land management responsibilities. Keep them in-house and allow a well funded and appropriately staffed HBP do its job.

Strategic Plan Preparation Process

- Develop the Action Plans as an element of Phase III.
- Define the numerous references to "partnerships." What exactly does that mean? Who determines with who and for what those partnerships are established?
- Include a policy statement regarding county improvements that impact parks and open space. For example, Aliso Creek is currently being altered to support a flood control project. This isn't an isolated incident and needs to be addressed in the plan.
- Deal with the tidelands, such as Upper Newport Bay and Dana Point Harbor, in this report; do not defer that discussion for later. Assure constituents that funding for these resources is secure; that the county intends to provide continued stewardship.
- Address the public safety impacts of active recreational users on passive park visitors and habitat. As the population grows so does demand on the parks. Park rangers must ensure that all recreational users are abiding by existing ordinances.

Plan Approval

- Publish the organizational chart in advance of BoS approval of the Strategic Plan.
- Include the HBP Commission in the recommendation of the Strategic Plan.

Public Participation

- Include public comment opportunities when considering the divestiture of parklands – for whatever reason. The current list of proposed divestitures lacks any explanation other than those parcels do not align with the general plan. The public needs to know how these properties were initially acquired, what they have been used for, what potential do they have, are there any mitigations, habitat allowances or other special circumstances associated with them?

Problem with Aliso Creek that there is heavy duty lobbying to the Feds by the City
Laguna Beach - Elizabeth Sneider(SD regional Board) Tony Isman, Pat Bates
\$45 million Federal
26 concrete drop structures (dams)
challenge end our natural creek – in a wilderness park to facilitate a private developer,
including a golf course
in a FEMA flood plan

runoff coming from upland cities – they don't want to address that but just
raise the flood plan 13 feet in order to take the golf course out of the
not in the RMP for the ACWP