

# Summary of the Community Advisory Work Group Meeting

February 27, 5 pm – 7 pm

Reynolds Desalination Facility

## Topics: Recreational Opportunities at Sweetwater Reservoir

**Presentation:** General Information on Community Advisory Work Group (CAWG), Meeting Agenda (Principal Public Affairs Representative Gwyneth Shoecraft)

**Presentation:** Recreational Opportunities at Sweetwater Reservoir (Gwyneth Shoecraft & Land and Environmental Manager Israel Marquez)

- Current recreational opportunities: fishing, hiking & riding, birdwatching, horseback riding, picnicking, nature study
- Future/potential opportunities:
  - Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area upgrades
  - Proposed shared access road/trail along shoreline
  - Sweetwater Reservoir Loop Trail System update

**Discussion & Q&A** (CAWG attendees, Sweetwater Authority representatives)

- Areas of discussion; recommendations and feedback provided:
  - Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area upgrades
    - Question as to whether drones are allowed; comment to consider adding a designated drone practice zone; recommendation to ensure FAA/drone app makers are designating area appropriately
      - Marquez explained drone opportunity is unlikely due to National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to reservoir; would require additional analysis for future use
    - Discussion of future non-motorized boating/kayak opportunities, with support from most attendees
    - Discussion of potential shading structures, brief discussion of concessions
    - Marquez explained that the Authority is engaging with wildlife agencies to consider more recreation as a potential use, and explained need for mitigation around additional recreation
  - Proposed shared access road/trail along shoreline
    - General sentiment of acceptance and excitement over proposed trail
      - Support from Mounting Biking Association and self-identified mountain bikers in attendance
      - Recommendation to open trail as a good “beginner” level option in the area
    - Discussion of trail location, both current and proposed trails
      - Clarification provided that no trail closures are proposed
      - Suggestions provided for changes to current and future trail alignments
    - Recommendation to open the trail for animal use (dogs, horses, etc.)
      - Marquez explained potential impacts to water quality; need for approval from State Division of Drinking Water
    - Discussion of access for emergency vehicles
    - Questions regarding timeline of trail opening

- Sweetwater Reservoir Loop Trail System update
  - Questions regarding timeline of full loop trail opening
  - Request for more information from the County of San Diego at next meeting
- Additional recommendations
  - Open access to shoreline from north side (Spring Valley)
    - Comment on lack of access as an environmental justice issue

**What's on Your Mind?** (CAWG attendees, Sweetwater Authority representatives)

- Comment that bill is confusing and should be restructured to be more clear
- Question regarding clarification on solar project size, timeline, when feedback would be presented to the Board and whether the topic would be brought back to the work group for discussion
- Discussion of the Authority's Urban Runoff Division System
- Update on Loveland trail improvements with a request to provide update at next work group meeting
- Suggestion of rates as future work group topic