

## **January 13, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Director's Report**

I have a few brief remarks – first and foremost I want to report on the very serious erosion problem we are experiencing at Scott Creek Beach. The problem has developed as a result of the very high surf run up and the direction the river has taken this winter. We are working closely with CalTrans and they will be taking steps, probably as early as next week, to stabilize the situation and prevent further erosion of the shoulder and possible damage to Highway 1. Secondly I would like to let you know that the Brommer Park play structure is installed and the project is 99% complete. Hestwood Park is going out to bid again tomorrow.

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** The project “punch list items” are complete. The next step will be to file a Notice of Completion with Caltrans. The Board of Supervisors accepted the project on June 25, 2002. In addition, staff is currently working on closing out the two federal grants and a state grant for the project. The grant close out phase has reached the point in which the Department can now bill for reimbursements.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2002.** Two brand new members have been added to our snowy plover population this past year even after extremely high egg predation by ravens in the area. Our representative biologists with Point Reyes Bird Observatory are pleased to have seen even this low figure and did not hesitate to graciously thank the County Parks Department for their good work and quick response times this past breeding season. The large-area perimeter fencing has been moved toward the bluff/highway area for the winter with only minor fencing improvements and enclosure removals remaining until the next breeding season starts in March 2003.

## **February 10, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Parks Building and Grounds Maintenance**

Staff did some clean up on the North Coast. Some damaged fencing was removed at Scott Creek beach and some drainage work was performed at Greyhound Rock.

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is currently working on closing out the two federal grants and a state grant for the project. Following the approval of a revised Supplemental Program Agreement with Caltrans, staff will be allowed to begin the grant reimbursement process for the federal grants. The recent storm surge activity from December and early January has caused severe embankment erosion and has compromised portions of the paved shoulder parking. Caltrans is currently working with the appropriate agencies to obtain environmental clearance to rebuild the damaged shoulder and place revetment for shoulder stability and protection. This work is being pursued under an emergency declaration by Caltrans.

Snowy Plover Protection Program 2002. Two brand new members have been added to our snowy plover population this past year even after extremely high egg predation by ravens in the area. Our representative biologists with Point Reyes Bird Observatory are pleased to have seen even this low figure and did not hesitate to graciously thank the County Parks Department for their good work and quick response times this past breeding season. The large-area perimeter fencing has been moved toward the bluff/highway area for the winter with only minor fencing improvements and enclosure removals remaining until the next breeding season starts in March 2003.

## **February 10, 2003 - Minutes**

### **A. Update on Scott Creek**

Director Samuel distributed photos taken at Scott Creek of storm damage. A tremendous amount of stone is being added to buttress Hiway 1; work should be complete in another two weeks. Repairs are being made to the parking area and shoulder of the road, funded by CalTrans. The shoulder of the road will be re-planted. The work is expected to be complete by next month's Parks Commission meeting.

## **March 10, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott Creek Beach. Staff is currently working on closing out the two federal grants and a state grant for the project. Following the approval of a revised Supplemental Program Agreement with Caltrans, staff will be allowed to begin the grant reimbursement process for the federal grants. The recent storm surge activity from December and early January has caused severe embankment erosion and has compromised portions of the paved shoulder parking. Caltrans is currently overseeing the storm repairs to the highway embankment, road shoulder and beach access improvements lost during the storm activity. This work is being implemented under an emergency declaration by Caltrans.

Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003. The large-area perimeter fencing has been moved toward the bluff/highway area for the winter with only minor fencing improvements and enclosure removals remaining until the next breeding season starts in March.

## **April 14, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Parks, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance**

A memorial bench was installed at Scott Creek Beach.

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott Creek Beach. Following the approval of a revised Supplemental Program Agreement with Caltrans, staff has begun the grant reimbursement process for the federal grants. Caltrans is nearing the completion of the storm repairs to the Highway One shoulder and drainage improvements. The remaining work includes: installing the cable for the dune protection fencing and the erosion control planting between the revetment and the cable fence.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is underway and the Sheriff's Department has been alerted for beach rule enforcement purposes. With Parks Staff present, on February 19<sup>th</sup> the Monterey-Area Snowy Plover working group met and discussed the upcoming season. The large-area perimeter fencing has been enlarged to a "halfway-out" stage due to remaining high winter sea levels. State Parks is doing a major increase in training and patrolling on their beaches and conducted two group training sessions at Simpkins Swim Center on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Nest activity and "exclosure" work expected to pick up/start in approximately a month.

## **May 12, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is preparing the necessary documents for the federal grant reimbursements. Elkhorn Nursery has completed the erosion control planting of native Dune Grass. The Parks Department has contracted with Elkhorn Nursery to provide plant care and watering through the fall of 2003.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is underway and the Sheriff's Department has been alerted for beach rule enforcement purposes. The first nest was protected on April 10<sup>th</sup> and another is expected April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **June 9, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is nearing the completion in preparing the necessary documents for the federal grant reimbursements. Elkhorn Nursery will continue to provide plant care and watering through the fall of 2003 for the newly planted Dune Grass.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is underway and the Sheriff's Department has been alerted for beach rule enforcement purposes. The first nest was protected on April 10<sup>th</sup> and another is expected April 17<sup>th</sup>. Three nest sites have been protected and Scott creek has been unusually feisty by running due South again causing staff to have to repair/re-install the perimeter fence an additional two times.

## **July 2003 – No Meeting**

## **August 11, 2003 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is preparing the necessary documents for the federal grant reimbursements. Elkhorn Nursery will continue to provide plant care and watering through the fall of 2003 for the newly planted Dune Grass.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is underway and the Sheriff's Department has been alerted for beach rule enforcement purposes. The first nest was protected on April 10<sup>th</sup> and another on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Three nest sites have been protected and Scott creek itself has been unusually "feisty" by running due South again causing staff to have to repair/re-install the perimeter fence several times.

## **September 8, 2003 – Agenda Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is preparing the necessary documents for the federal grant reimbursements. Elkhorn Nursery will continue to provide plant care and watering through the fall of 2003 for the newly planted Dune Grass.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is underway and the Sheriff's Department has been alerted for beach rule enforcement purposes. The first nest was protected on April 10<sup>th</sup> and another on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Three nest sites have been protected and Scott creek itself has been unusually "feisty" by running due South again causing staff to have to repair/re-install the perimeter fence several times. This season has been very slow in terms of numbers of nesting birds.

## **October 20, 2003 – Agenda Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott Creek Beach.** Staff is in the final stage of closing out the federal and state grants for the project. Elkhorn Nursery will continue to provide plant care and watering through the fall of 2003 for the newly planted Dune Grass.

**Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach.** The 2003 breeding season is coming to a close and the perimeter fencing will soon be brought closer to the highway as the winter tides increase in height. Remaining "exclosures" will be broken down and stored at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. Plovers are starting to return for the "roosting" season. There has been a lot of illegal campfire activity over the summer and lots of littering.

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Parks Commissioners  
From: Michael Scheele, Park Planner/Snowy Plover Protection Coordinator  
RE: Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003  
Date: October 8, 2003

Parks staff began the Snowy Plover season in late February with newly purchased "exclosure" and fencing materials/equipment. A large plover breeding area was secured at the south end of the beach as has been done in past years. Breeding activity started at a typically fast pace approximately mid-March through April with four to six exclosures being constructed around both 2 and 3 egg nests. Activity then dropped off significantly concurrent with Scott Creek itself meandering severely to the south. The breeding area perimeter fencing had to be adjusted inland several times as the creek meandered closer and closer inland to the highway, pulling the fencing down into the moving water. The creek meandered so severely southward that it eroded the road shoulder edge of the beach destroying a significant portion of the freshly constructed Highway One roadside parking/habitat area. Unexpectedly, park staff had to devote a large amount of time to coordinate the repair and re-construction of the area with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Breeding activity never really picked up after that point. Remarkably though, even with the low number of nests laid in 2003, apparently two new birds survived and fledged (left nest able to fly on their own) which is a proportionately high number. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) official report of Snowy Plover breeding activity along the California Coast is anticipated in the coming month or two. After receipt, copies of it can be forwarded upon request.

## **October 20, 2003 – Minutes**

### **Snowy Plover Report**

A staff report on the Snowy Plover was distributed. Park Planner Mike Scheele was present to answer questions. One beach in the County, Scotts Creek, has been designated a protected area for Snowy Plovers. Even with the low number of nests laid in 2003, apparently two new birds survived and left the nest able to fly on their own, which is a proportionately high number. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory official report of Snowy Plover breeding activity along the California Coast is expected in the next month or two. Copies will be available upon request.

## **November 17, 2003– Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott Creek Beach. Staff is in the final stage of closing out the federal and state grants for the project. Due to the dry fall weather, Elkhorn Nursery will continue to provide plant care and water until the rainy season arrives.

Snowy Plover Protection Program 2003 - Scott Creek Beach. The 2003 breeding season is over and the perimeter fencing will soon be brought closer to the highway as the winter tides increase in height. Remaining “exclosures” will be broken down and re-stored at Quail Hollow Ranch Park. Plovers are starting to return for the “roosting” season. There has been a lot of illegal campfire activity over the summer and lots of littering.

## **December 2003 – No Meeting**