

NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 5:30 PM, In Person and **ZOOM**

Attending:

President – Bryan Tsu

Board Members – Mario Cuevas, Julia Powers, Yugina Yun, McKenna Wegner (virtual), Peter Bryant (virtual), Bettina Eastman (virtual), Diane Daruty

Staff and guests - Heather Cieslak

OC Parks – Molly Waldram

Excused Absence: Maureen Flanagan, Lori Methenate

Special Guests from the Gabrieleno Kizh Tribe - Victoria Jones, Legislative Liaison & Nadine Salas, Co-Chairwoman

5:30 Call to order/roll call: Bryan

1. Special Guests - Gabrieleno Kizh Tribe: Victoria Jones & Nadine Salas

Nadine & Vicky expressed the Gabrieleno Kizh Tribe's support for the Bay, and provided background on their history and presence in Southern California.

Yugina made a motion to approve a letter of support for the Kizh Nation Band of Gabrieleno Indians for federal tribal recognition, and Mario seconded.

2. Operations Report: Heather

The Operations Report was provided ([see attached](#)). The restoration manager gave notice that their last day will be the 30th and Heather discussed the transition plan with the board. New volunteer training will be held May 2nd and August 22nd.

The board discussed the SOCALPAPA memorandum of understanding for 2026. Bettina motioned to approve the memorandum, and Yugina seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Restoration Committee: Yugina

The Restoration Report was provided ([see attached](#)). Big Canyon Phase II work is ongoing. Phase III updates include: using mudmats as an alternative to the dredging work that had faced obstacles, and the committee will need to consider a large bulk order of new plants to replace natural losses that have occurred. Yugina will continue to provide incremental budget updates to the board.

4. Treasurer's Report: Julie

The board reviewed the conflict of interest policies. Julie is meeting with the auditor tomorrow to talk about updates on 2025 financials, and that budget updates will all be out in Quickbooks. Elodie is helping with the transaction reporting. ([See attached](#)).

5. Education Committee: Mario

The board reviewed the exit survey to make any adjustments before the next meeting. Volunteer orientation for May 2nd is full, and the Bay has some interns working on site now to help with events. Have had some events throughout the month such as Earth Day, Sunset Yoga, which have been all successes. There's been an increased focus for further donations and outreach. ([See attached](#)).

6. Board Recruitment: Diane

So far there are 5 potential candidates to join as a board member. Diane expressed to the board to spread the word via social media, etc.

7. Fundraising Committee: Bryan

The Fundraising Committee update will be provided at the next meeting.

8. Community Outreach Committee: Bettina

The Community Outreach Committee update will be provided at the next meeting.

9. Audit Committee: Diane

The Audit Committee update will be provided at the next meeting.

7:00 Adjournment: Bettina moved; Diane seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
McKenna Wegner, Secretary and Bryan Tsu, President