

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04, 2026**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 4**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A REVISED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA AND THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FOR THE PLANNING, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE OTAY RANCH PRESERVE AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: 1 & 2)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) and the City of Chula Vista (City) City Council adopted the Otay Ranch General Development Plan/Subregional Plan (Subregional Plan) on October 28, 1993 (1). The Subregional Plan contemplated development within a series of villages that would be located within the City's and the County's land use jurisdictions in an area known as Otay Ranch, which is within the southwestern San Diego region, in the area generally surrounding the Lower Otay Reservoir. To mitigate impacts from development, the Subregional Plan also conceptualized an approximately 11,000-acre preserve system (Otay Ranch Preserve) that would be jointly managed by the County and the City in perpetuity as an entity referred to as the Preserve Owner/Manager (POM). In 1993, along with the adoption of the Subregional Plan, the Board also adopted Phase 1 of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Otay Ranch Preserve (Preserve), which established a comprehensive program for the long-term protection and management of sensitive resources located within the Preserve.

Due to the joint nature of planning and development for Otay Ranch, on March 6, 1996 (6), the Board approved a 30-year Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City and County. The JPA described the roles and responsibilities for the planning, operation and maintenance of Otay Ranch Preserve by the POM. Since 1996, the County and City have partnered collectively to operate and manage the Otay Ranch Preserve as the POM. The 1996 JPA is set to expire on March 6, 2026, and allows for a 30-year extension. The County and City worked together to update and revise the JPA to further define operational responsibilities and memorialize a variety of regulatory changes that have taken place since the adoption of the original JPA in 1996.

The main revision to the JPA is an administrative update that adds references to relevant efforts, such as the Multiple Species Conservation Program and Phase 2 Resource Management Plan that were not in place in 1996. It also updates staff roles and clarifies duties for managing the Otay Ranch Preserve. These changes do not alter the core partnership or make any major substantive changes and are intended to memorialize the current partnership and structure of the POM. The City of Chula Vista will be bringing the revised JPA to their City Council for adoption on March 3, 2026. The revised JPA will extend for 30 years until March 2056.

Today's requested action will authorize the Director of the County Department of Parks and Recreation to execute a revised JPA between the City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego for the planning, operation and maintenance of the Otay Ranch Preserve. This request to authorize the revised JPA would result in no increase to annual costs and no additional staff years.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed Joint Powers Agreement is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to execute a revised Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego for the Planning, Operation and Maintenance of the Otay Ranch Preserve.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Department of Parks and Recreation’s continued efforts to maintain the natural habitat in Otay Ranch Preserve will benefit threatened plant and animal species and cultural resources. The revised JPA between the City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego for the planning, operation and maintenance of the Otay Ranch Preserve will have a positive impact on all San Diego County residents and visitors by continuing to protect water and air quality and continuing to conserve the region’s sensitive resources.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action to execute the revised JPA between the City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego for the planning, operation and maintenance of the Otay Ranch Preserve will continue to conserve natural habitat in Otay Ranch Preserve and contribute to the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No. 6 to protect ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Board of Supervisors’ authorization of the revised Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego for the planning, operation and maintenance of the Otay Ranch Preserve. Annual operating costs for the Otay Ranch Preserve are provided by Community Facilities Districts that were established as conditions of development within Otay Ranch. If approved, there would be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter