



Remote via Zoom

Governors Present: Cathy Pleasant, Chuck Nelsen, Ellie Carbajal, Bob Nienaber, Joyce Densmore-Thomas; Tom Giustina; Christina Nichols; Dave Scotto

Ex Officio Present: Ahmad Boura, Vice President for University Advancement (CEO); Steve Perez, President;

Staff Present: Pam Hollis, University Advancement

SPECIAL SESSION
Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve Park Fire Restoration – Emergency Funding Request

MINUTES

University Foundation CEO Ahmad Boura called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting:

The Park Fire has tragically devastated much of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), resulting in the destruction of the reserve’s headquarters and most other structures. This fire has also severely impacted the wildlife and habitats that depend on this vital ecological resource.

To address these immediate challenges, BCCER urgently needs to restore essential infrastructure to continue its critical wildlife, watershed, and land stewardship work.

In collaboration with Eli Goodsell, Director of the BCCER, University Advancement is preparing to launch an emergency crowdfunding campaign aimed at raising \$400,000.

This campaign will address the following urgent needs:

- **Temporary Office Setup:** Secure temporary office space to serve as crew headquarters while a long-term site plan is developed.
- **Internet and Communication Systems:** Replace damaged equipment to restore communication, ensuring crew safety and operational efficiency.
- **Water and Power Infrastructure:** Repair water lines, replace melted storage tanks, and re-establish power to critical areas.
- **Road Infrastructure:** Repair and maintain roadways to ensure safe and reliable access to the reserve.
- **Hazard Mitigation:** Identify and address hazardous trees and debris and clean up damaged infrastructure.
- **Habitat Protection:** Install emergency sediment retention devices in key tributaries to protect critical habitats.
- **Wildlife Water Sources:** Maintain essential water sources for wildlife.

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- **Wildlife Monitoring:** Reinstall cameras to monitor wildlife conditions and prioritize habitat restoration efforts.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Build habitat piles to provide shelter for birds, small mammals, and amphibians.
- **Student Employment:** Fund student employment to assist with rehabilitation efforts, with \$500 supporting a student's work for one week.

To maximize the impact of this campaign, Boura said he is seeking board approval for the following:

1. **A one-time emergency allocation of up to \$100,000**, in \$25,000 increments, to be used as matching funds to help raise an additional \$300,000 within two weeks, starting Monday, August 26th.
2. **Waiving the 5% administrative fee on all donations to the BCCER** for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

President Perez shared his support of the request, describing first-hand the devastation caused by the fire which is still burning and will likely continue until it rains this fall. As the fourth largest fire in the history of the state the damage is immense and the need for restoration is deep and immediate.

Chuck Nelsen made a motion to approve the request. Dave Scotto seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved. In addition to the eight votes from the board members in attendance, six additional votes were submitted via email for a total of 14, which satisfies the required quorum.

Boura adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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