

April 17, 2017

Santa Susana Meeting Notes

Location

Knollwood Country Club, April 11, 2017, 6-8pm

Attendees

Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation: Michelle O'Connor; Zachary Likins; Julie Yom

Sapphos Environmental, Inc.: Marie Campbell; Laura Male

Alta Planning + Design: James Powell; Emily Duchon; Lydia Kenselaa; Matthew Wild

The notes below represent a summary of the comments that were provided by people who attended the meeting at the six stations located around the room:

- General Amenities Board (objectives/overall trails plan boards at the front of the room)
- County Trail Types
- Study Area Map
- Mountain Bike User Group
- Equestrian User Group
- Hiking User Group (no comments received)

General Amenities Board

- Lake Manor – Chatsworth
 - Land between Valley Circle and Bell Canyon +3
 - Supported by Lake Manor Town Council, Dina Fisher [City of LA Contact for Valley Circle Trail]
- Santa Susana Field Lab Location on Maps
- Connection to Ahmanson Ranch and Ultimately to the Ocean
- Connection between City Valley Circle Trail
 - To state park via Chatsworth Oaks Park
 - There are existing trails that go through this area, including lands scheduled for dedication to MRCA (tied to pending development project)
- Evaluate ability to connect to riparian area between Valley Circle and north end of Phase II.b
- Congressman Schiff is looking at legislation to expand Rim of the Valley Trail planning and development, including expansion of the plan area
- Trail safety that realistically recognizes conflicts between fast and slow trail users in confined spaces or locations where there is limited visibility.
 - Ex: upper reach of Placerita Canyon Trail
- Geo-Fencing
 - Volunteer – good citizen to self-police through volunteer to have location tracked
 - Develop an app for phones
 - SKU @ trailhead and have tracking associated
 - Verizon is taking a leadership on this technology

- Assign budget resources for sheriff to respond to unauthorized trespassing on private property from recreation users
 - Equestrian posse or mountain bike officers
- Ex: Gateway property experienced people cooking methamphetamines, alcohol use on trails, Marijuana use.

County Trail Types

- Pico and Mentryville- One contiguous ridge
- Dashed lines to link Towsley with Pico and Mentryville- Priority
- Trail from top of East Canyon to Rice Canyon
- Link Mentryville/ Pico >Towsley> East/Rice Canyon
- Connectors to Santa Clarita and Newhall trail networks
- Longer Range:
 - Connection between East/Canyon and Towsley over Rocky Peak
- LADWP area contact- Sapphos to email
- Interest in dedicated bike skill park
 - Seen in Sequoias where would they fit?
 - A lot of work to set up and keep up
- Link Browns Canyon to Rocky Peak
- Link Browns Canyon to Stevenson Ranch
- Link Rocky Peak to Ghost town in Mentryville
- Warning signs to stay on the trail (rattlesnakes)
- Trail patrols during events
- Communication devices for emergency contact
 - Like freeway call box for early responses
- Ridgeline views of ocean and islands desired
- Historic San Fernando Mission Ranch site:
 - Is it within Phase IIa?
 - There is an adobe foundation somewhere.

Phase II.b

- Rim of the Valley- Simi Hills wildlife corridor
- Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing
- Connection to Ahmanson Ranch and to the Ocean through Santa Maria
- Santa Clarita to the Ocean
- City Planner is looking at historic context right now
- Interested in connectors
- Old Mission trail in City of Los Angeles south of Rinaldi, from Limekiln Canyon to De Soto
- Connected San Fernando Mission to Santa Barbara
 - Looking to maintain what's left of it
 - Connects to Stagecoach Trail through Venture County
- Shared use access LADWP High Line pipeline) LADWP maintains the road >1" rock older grading has smaller crushed rock
 - Paving grading- horse tails use well separated

Study Area Map

- Parking and Access points

- Trail Etiquette
- Old Stagecoach Road
- History- Chumash, homes
- Link Pico, Towsley, out Southeast corner
- Phase I- Antonovich to Rocky Peak
- Existing trails Chatsworth Hills Park toward 118
- Browns Canyon/ De Soto- Nita Base
- Development under review at Northern East of B area
- Consider "geo-fencing" to help control access/ contain within authorized areas
- Eventual connection to Ocean
- Check out Volunteer docent program at Santa Susana Mountains State Park

Mountain Bike

Skills Areas:

- Near 198- Three Rivers mountain bike trails
- San Luis Obispo- Cal Poly
- How will it be run?
 - Maintenance
- Bike Clubs are to reserve?
- Cheseboro--- Good example of bike park skills
- Volunteer opportunities for maintenance?
- BMX racing are with loop (Rad Movie)
- Parking
- Multiple access types to area
 - Horse
 - Walk
 - Bike
- Playground for kids too young to ride
- Woodsley Canyon (in ll.b area?)- Near
 - Sage Ranch
 - Good Bike facilities location?
 - Currently used for 4-wheeling
- People come from great distance to access open space
 - Dog park amenities

Equestrian

- So much land converted to residential
 - Interest in preserving ranch land
- By equestrians and others
- Do not respect signs when posted or the land owners

Santa Susana Trails Master Plan:

- Trespassing and liability concerns
- No police or sheriff patrol
- Lack of enforcement/police on new trails
- Long term maintenance concerns
- Conservancy easement

- Lowest bidder on land management- may not have right motives
- Soil contamination
 - Is it properly mapped?
- Privacy of property owners from trail activity
- How much will this cost landowners and who will pay for patrol?
- Trail buffer around Pico Canyon – Wickham Canyon A.Y.N.H
- Drug activity on open space and fire risk
- Break-in risk from trails near homes

- Trails wide enough Two trails- Fast/SWW
- Loops- Boring to return on same path
- Chatsworth
- Connections to outside amenities Overnight camping area- A LA Topanga
- State and Malibu Creek State Park

- Toll 118/Can (South of 118)
 - New horse staging area to be part of project?
 - D12-Englands office
- Browns Canyon staging area
- Staging Area on Victory and Manson-Simple but good
 - Woodland Hills
- Chatsworth- Need staging area!

- Horse People
 - single track trails for multi-use and multiple speeds,
 - Conflict between fast bikes and slow horses
 - Can we have multiple trail types in sections of the same trails
- Circle/loop routes-preferable to “There and Back”
 - Horses like loops
- Staging areas with maps
- Wayfinding with mile markers
- Important connection in Phase II.b from Chatsworth Oaks down to Bell Canyon
 - Existing trail around Shoop which begins and ends
- Chatsworth train tunnel adjacent to “Homestead Acre” longest train tunnel
- Connect to the historical destinations, or information can be provided on interpretive signs at staging areas
 - Chatsworth Historical Society
- Etiquette, bell programs, user-group events, education
- Speed check gates for downhill cyclists with signage in congested areas
- Signage about yielding to users
- Canyon trail and Placerita Canyon
 - Very Successful
- Brown Canyon Staging area
- Chatsworth Native Preserve

