

April 20, 2017

Santa Susana Meeting Notes

Location

Shadow Ranch Community Center, April 18, 2017, 6-8pm

Attendees

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

Sapphos Environmental, Inc.: Marie Campbell, Laura Male

Alta Planning + Design: James Powell, Greg Maher, Lydia Kenselaar, Matthew Wild

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

- General Amenities Board (objectives/overall trails plan boards at the front of the room)
- County Trail Types
- Phase II.b
- Mountain Bike User Group
- Equestrian User Group
- Environment Group

A (+1) indicates where other attendees agreed with the comment; a (-1) symbol indicates where other attendees disagreed with the comment.

General Amenities Board

- Social trail to the south of Ed Davis Park should be formalized
- Check on existing trails off of Towsley Canyon loop
- More loops would be fun
- Use the fire roads or oil rig access trails
- Gateway ranch open space; trails are unclear, not sure if you are trespassing when using them
- Identify a trail alignment in the vicinity of the "Apostles" to provide public access across private land, where there is an existing conflict.
 - Also look at partnering with Ventura County (believes 75 acres in Ventura County may be for sale)
- Zorro's Cabin on film ranch in adjacent Ventura County
 - Gunsmoke-Zorro TV shows
 - Weekend home for studio owner-retreat
 - Santa Susanna version of Malibu Creek

County Trail Types

- Request to connect trails to public transit (+1)
 - LA river bike path goes under orange line w/o connectivity
- Connecting of Area II.b to Santa Susana pass State Historic Park desired (+1)
 - Existing trails from Chatsworth Oak Park (valley circle drive-owned by LADWP across street from nature preserve, maintained by LA City Parks and Rec) to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
- Preference for Natural Trails 2 and 3 (feel like in the wilderness)
- Need for proper grading
- Mountain bikers scare hikers and horses
- Community hiking club -> Diane -> speak with her (knows the trails well e.g. Towsley to Rice canyon)
- Support for trails master plan
- Use recommendation: astronomy overlook in darker area (+1)
 - Programming: astronomer with telescope e.g. Frasier park parking lot on top of Mt. Pinos
- Working with housing developments -> work with developers early to develop public-private partnerships
 - Quimby funds -> mitigation to pursue more e.g. land banking
- Phase II.b -> conservancy donated land (state land)
 - MOU > partnership with MRCA? Yes
- Tie in with flood control -> develop trails along LA river (City of LA)
- Trailheads + parking (more parking) -> more parking options (e.g., to minimize impacts to wilderness by constructing parking areas in more developed areas with a path leading from the developed area to the wilderness area)
- Need for reminder signs about trail etiquette (infographics) to reduce user group conflicts
- Love planning for all 3 trail uses instead of restricting uses
- Have you ever explored separate horse and bike routes at potential danger spots?
- How does trail maintenance work? (countywide maintenance crew 2x/year)
- Have you incorporated an app to raise trail user awareness? (website = opportunity to comment)
 - Useful where no cellular signal
 - County public works has an app
 - Clarify app is available for complaints
- Like bridges e.g. Chantry Flats Pasadena
- Nice urban trails by Castaway restaurant (Burbank) -> like the trailhead
- Establish set advisory groups for each study area phase with individuals from the community (federal, state, local interest groups facilitated by the county) to establish regular meetings / contact point
- Post comment card on project website as secondary system (less tech savvy, a lot of people in community not tech savvy)
 - Social media kit for outreach with more graphics and documents
- Important to partner with Ventura County for regional trail connections avoiding dead ends at county line)
- Overpass trail concept -> recreational wilderness corridor
 - Concept of PCT -> can hike for days and camp along the way
 - Weekend long hike along Santa Susana Mountains would be cool
 - Crossing 118 and 101
 - Hike Malibu to Santa Susana Mountains (Rim of Valley Corridor)
 - Work with LACoDPW
- Connections to Sage Park trails

Phase II.b

- Continue seeking input and information from Ventura County
 - Chatsworth Lake Manor community is both LA County and Ventura
- Weldon fire road could use trailhead amenities
- Local parking passes for residents
 - Would County Parks charge money for parking?
 - Concerns for parking congestion on local roads
 - Leverage existing parks and parking areas
- Establish advisory group for this plan
- Nike Missile Base as destination at Desoto
- Ridgeline in northern Phase I area a great connector + likely Nike Missile Base location (*verified: Nike Missile Site LA-88 is located in Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan Phase I Area*)
- Integrate with parks and parking at and around reservoir
- Wildlife preservation/conservation

Mountain Bike Use

- How does the train factor in?
- Roscoe and Valley circle are important to connect LA County/City line
- Add more amenities (fixing stations, bike racks) – most amenities geared towards hikers
- Porter Ranch at Aliso Canyon is a good example
- MRCA at top of Victory also good example
- How do we work with MRCA/SMMC
- Against motorized bikes (scares equestrian and wildlife).
 - Okay with mountain bikes, but hard to regulate motorized bikes

Equestrian Use

- Every trail should be open for equestrian use as well
 - Important to preserve Chatsworth as equestrian community
 - Part of the history of the area
 - Important to preserve community identity
 - People need places to ride their horses
 - San Fernando Valley has been losing trails to development
- Area II.b – integration of existing stables-how to integrate- property already zoned-locate trail heads there
- Limit dirt bikes (noise) and wildlife disruption
- Work to limit wildlife displacement
- Like seeing horses on the trails
- Parking: need space for horse trailers
- Simi Valley has great equestrian facilities

Environment:

- Work to limit wildlife displacement
- Preserve the things residents love (nature sounds and sights)
- Dog park – off leash opportunities – how to encourage use there to discourage off – leash dogs on trails

- Opportunities to honor Native American Western Traditions/history of the area e.g., hikes and tours to point out significant areas (for example – south Susana Mountains state Historic park)
- Desire to preserve wildlife habitat
- Wildlife territory lost to development at SR 118:
 - 3 mountain lions and 1 bear lost