

MEETING RECORD

San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative

Thursday, May 26, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Altadena Community Center, Altadena, CA

Attendees

Jacqueline Ayer, *Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley)*

Tim Brick, *Arroyo Seco Foundation*

William Estrada, *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County*

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel, *Community Hiking Club*

Armond Ghazarian, *Los Angeles Department of Public Works*

Otis Greer (for Andy Silva), *San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors*

Richard Guttenberg, *Archaeology/Culture*

Cliff Hamlow, *San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers*

Jackson Lam (for Mark Masaoka), *Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council*

Joseph Lyons, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Brian Mejia (for Kathryn Barger), *LA County Board of Supervisors – 5th District*

Steve Messer, *Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association*

John Monsen, *The Sierra Club*

Chuck Myers, *National Forest Homeowners*

Judy Nelson, *City of Glendora*

Nancy Negrete (for Robert Garcia), *The City Project*

Michelle Nuttall, *Southern California Edison*

Angel Perales (for Daniel Oaxaca), *San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps*

Mark Stanley (for Margaret Clark), *Rivers & Mountains Conservancy*

Bill Reeves, *Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps*

Liz Reilly, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Tamera Robinson, *Equestrian Community*

Dan Rosenfeld, *Community Partners & Trust for Public Land*

Daniel Rossman, *The Wilderness Society*

Jack Sahl, *Friends of the Angeles*

Chris Solek, *Council for Watershed Health*

Gary Stickel (for Andrew Salas), *Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation*

Jessica Strickland (for Belinda Faustinos), *San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition*

Linda Taira (for Dale Benson), *California Department of Transportation, District 7*

Rick Travis, *California Rifle and Pistol Association*

Linda Wucherpfennig, *California Off-Road Vehicle Association*

FOREST SERVICE

Jeffrey Vail, Sonja Bergdahl, Matthew Bokach, Adrienne Dunfee, Justin Seastrand, Sherry Rollman, and Joe Llewellyn, *Angeles National Forest*

Jennifer Eberlien, Sheri Elliott, Jerry Bird, and Amanda Cundiff, *Pacific Southwest Region*

Glenn Casamassa, Jacqueline Emanuel, Ellen Shawn, *Washington Office*

CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM

Mary Mitsos and Emily Olsen, *National Forest Foundation*

Welcome & Introduction

Mary Mitsos welcomed all participants to the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) meeting. Thirty-one SGMCC members and alternates, fourteen Forest Service representatives, and two National Forest Foundation staff were present.

Joe Lyons introduced the Steering Committee members (Joe, Margaret Clark, Belinda Faustinos, Daniel Rossman, Jack Sahl, Chris Solek, Linda Wucherpennig, and Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel). Joe also shared the process steps for SGMCC members, committees, and interested citizens to submit agenda items:

Process Steps:

- (1) Committees or individuals should visit the Google Form and submit the topic. If the item is coming from a committee, please note that in the form.

LINK TO FORM: <http://goo.gl/forms/osgvusIIYd>

- (2) The SGMCC can review topics that have been submitted at any time by visiting: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j6TzvUpG2c0hQu4gLQMw-SN69qZbrUirpz7vCgJeVsg/edit?usp=sharing>.
- (3) Steering Committee members will regularly review the topics that have been submitted, and will meet the second Thursday of every month (two weeks prior to the monthly SGMCC meeting) to discuss proposed agenda items and draft an agenda.

Forest Service Updates & Discussion

Jeffrey Vail, Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest, discussed four items with the SGMCC:

- (1) Transportation workshop: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) hosted a transportation workshop with the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and other partners on April 28th. The workshop was a tremendous opportunity to learn about new transportation-related opportunities.
- (2) New staff: Matthew Bokach is the new Monument Manager, and Adrienne Dunfee is the new Deputy Monument Manager. Matthew and Adrienne are thrilled to join the team, and both noted that they're excited to be on the "cutting edge" at the ANF.
- (3) Monument Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (EA): The ANF released draft chapters 1 and 2 of the environmental assessment in April, and intends to release the full draft EA around July 20th with a 60-day public comment period. The ANF aims to host 3-4 public meetings, and potentially a webinar, in late August or September. *Note that the EA release date may depend on the public comment period; later in the meeting, the SGMCC requested a later public comment period, and the ANF agreed. This change may necessitate a later EA release date.*

- (4) Forest reorganization: The ANF continues to go through reorganization. Until reorganizing to two districts, there will be an acting Ranger on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers District.

Jennifer Eberlien, Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, discussed the availability of resources in the Region. The Region aims to prioritize all of the National Monuments in the region, as well as the threats from increasing tree mortality across California. Prioritizing among units will necessarily lead to challenges *and* opportunities for creativity.

Glenn Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, discussed the Forest Service's strategic plan. Glenn focused on five new approaches to management: (1) taking opportunities to reframe how we connect people to the outdoors, (2) supporting community services and volunteers, (3) utilizing digital services, (4) ensuring sufficient access to national forests via roads and trails, and, (5) meeting people where they are and recognizing the places that are special to the American public. Glenn noted that the Monument Management Plan is a key tool to set the path towards implementing new approaches, and the SGMCC represents a strategic new way to do business.

During discussion, the SGMCC and Forest Service staff emphasized the following points:

- Jeffrey Vail would like to see a multi-year partnership plan to ensure the Forest Service is on the same page as partners, and allow all parties to operate more nimbly. Multiple partners and agencies should develop the plan, and it should grow from the SGMCC, Monument Management Planning, and other efforts.
- Resources to hire Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) will be a critical aspect of the Monument's success.
- Tremendous values come from national forests in California. The Pacific Southwest Region would like to align resources with these values across California.
- Members expressed concerns about the transportation plan, and the need to protect objects of significance identified in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument proclamation.
- Glenn's challenge to the SGMCC: Are you a learning organization? Can you learn from your successes *and* your failures?
- Members commended Jeffrey Vail for how much he and his team have worked with the SGMCC; members also asked Jeffrey to continue to bring candor and frank discussions and feedback to the SGMCC.

SGMCC members made the following suggestions:

- Consider timing the draft EA public comment period so that the comment period ends after (instead of just before) the SGMCC's September 22nd meeting. Ideally, the comment period would last from August 1st-September 30th.
- Host a webinar early in the public comment period so that people can reference the webinar recording as a tool throughout the comment period.

- Request establishment of a [Transportation Assistance Group \(TAG\)](#) to assist with the transportation plan.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Michelle Nuttall asked Jeffrey Vail and ANF staff to consider timing the draft EA public comment period so that the comment period ends after (instead of just before) the SGMCC's September 22nd meeting. Vail agreed that the ANF could adjust the timing of the public comment period. He or staff will follow up with the SGMCC about specific dates and timelines.

Transportation Workshop & SGMCC Engagement in Transportation Initiatives

Liz Reilly presented the local government perspective on transportation, access, and parking near the Monument. Liz noted that national forest visitors often park in city lots when visiting federal lands, illegal parking is increasing, and there are often jurisdictional issues if cities attempt to enforce parking violations. Members also discussed the importance of parking and access for equestrian trails. Liz suggested three recommendations for the SGMCC to consider:

- (1) Include interface cities in trailhead and parking lot planning efforts
- (2) Improve recreational education for visitors
- (3) Establish jurisdictional MOUs with cities and state and federal government agencies

Linda Taira shared a video showing the examples of the damage on State Route 39. Linda will share studies on SR 39 for SGMCC members to share with constituents. SGMCC members made two suggestions related to SR 39:

- Consider the potential for a seasonal shuttle with very limited use
- Look into seasonal closures (instead of a year-round closure)

[Click here to see Linda's presentation](#). Please contact eolsen@nationalforests.org if you would like a copy of the video (the size is too large to share on the NFF's website or via email).

Nancy Negrete discussed the [Community Transit to Parks & Open Space demonstration project](#). The project, led by The City Project and partners, will begin this summer. Nancy explained that transportation is often the most-cited reason why people don't visit the San Gabriel Mountains, and community-based transportation with conservation programming could help address the access challenge. The demonstration project will be successful with region-wide partnerships with organizations and agencies, including transportation agencies. Transportation agencies are critical to fund and institutionalize the program. The City Project is currently seeking additional sources of funding, and hopes to convince the LA Country Board of Supervisors and Metrolink to support dedicated funding for a region-wide system. The SGMCC offered to review and consider approval of a letter in support of this model for a demonstration project. Nancy offered to draft the letter.

Daniel Rossman discussed post-transportation workshop steps that the SGMCC could take to address transportation issues. Daniel noted that the workshop was a wonderful opportunity,

but didn't end with a clear roadmap to move forward. Options include reviewing the SCAG regional transportation plan, creating a new transportation vision document or MOU, and/or working to influence upcoming ballot measures for transportation funding. Daniel offered to draft an initial letter related to transportation ballot measures for the SGMCC to review and consider for approval on June 23rd.

Members also reminded the SGMCC to remember the North Slope communities, who local and state governments often exclude from "regional" planning efforts.

Gary Stickel spoke about the importance of recording historic archaeological data. Gary would like to draft a letter for the SGMCC to sign.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Linda Taira will share studies on SR 39 for SGMCC members to share with constituents.
- NFF will post presentations on the SGMCC website. Video clips are too large to host on the website, but members may request the clips from the NFF (via an FTP site).
- Nancy Negrete will draft a letter in support of the Community Transit to Parks & Open Space demonstration project for the SGMCC to review and approve at the June 23rd meeting.
- Daniel Rossman will draft a letter in support of transportation-related funding on upcoming ballot measures for the SGMCC to review and approve at the June 23rd meeting.
- Gary Stickel will draft a letter in support of historic archaeological data for the SGMCC to review and approve at the June 23rd meeting.

Committee Updates & Proposals

Monument & Transportation Plan Coordinating Committee:

- Michelle Nuttall presented a timeline and next steps for the SGMCC to develop comments on the [draft EA](#). [Click here to see Michelle's presentation](#).
- The committee would like to surface any issues as soon as possible to allow time for collaborative discussion and consensus building.
- Through discussion, members asked if the EA could still be released around July 20th, even if the public comment period starts at a later time. Matthew Bokach will look into the question and get back to the SGMCC.

Projects & External Impacts Committee:

- Chris Solek noted that the committee, with 19 members, is moving forward on several tasks.
- Richard Guttenberg recently created a map with the National Monument boundaries, which is [available to view online](#). The committee's goal is to make the map useful for external audiences.

- SGMCC members are encouraged to share ideas for projects this committee should lead.

Communications & Engagement Committee:

- Jack Sahl presented the committee's priorities. [Click here to see Jack's proposal.](#)
- The SGMCC did not offer additional feedback.

ACTION ITEMS:

- SGMCC members should review draft Environmental Assessment Chapters 1 and 2 of the National Monument Management Plan within two weeks (by COB on June 9th), and send comments to the committee co-chairs (Michelle Nuttall, Claire Robinson, Daniel Rossman).
- Matthew Bokach will find out if the draft EA can still be released around the July 20th target date, even if the comment period starts at a later date (August 1st).

Upcoming Meetings & Miscellaneous Business

Upcoming Meetings:

- The next SGMCC meeting will be **Thursday, June 23rd from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at the [Big Pines Visitor Center/Information Station](#)**, which is located at the intersection of Highway 2 and Big Pines Highway, just north of Mountain High's West Resort Entrance, near Wrightwood.

Process to develop letters of support: The Steering Committee will propose a process for developing letters of support from the SGMCC.

Collaborative Restoration Workshop (CRW) in Denver: Michelle Nuttall represented the SGMCC at the [recent workshop](#), which the NFF hosted. Michelle noted that it was interesting to learn about the universal experience of working with collaborative groups. Many groups share similar frustrations, though Michelle was also inspired to learn from people who have been working in collaborative groups for 5-10 years and were impressed by the SGMCC's accomplishments. Michelle also received positive feedback about the SGMCC's ability to develop consensus comments on the Need to Change Analysis.

Every Kid in a Park: Friends of the Angeles is working to add a scheduling module to [their website](#) to address the challenge of finding educators, instructors, and docents to lead educational presentations in the forest. SGMCC members who know of potential educators who may be interested are encouraged to spread the word.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Prior to the July 28th meeting, the Steering Committee will propose a process for developing letters of support from the SGMCC.

RE-CAP: ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- Michelle Nuttall asked Jeffrey Vail and ANF staff to consider timing the draft EA public comment period so that the comment period ends after (instead of just before) the SGMCC's September 22nd meeting. Vail and/or staff will follow up with the SGMCC.
- Linda Taira will share studies on SR 39 for SGMCC members to share with constituents.
- NFF will post presentations on the SGMCC website. Video clips are too large to host on the website, but members may request the clips from the NFF (via an FTP site).
- Nancy Negrete will draft a letter in support of the Community Transit to Parks & Open Space demonstration project for the SGMCC to review and consider for approval at the June 23rd meeting.
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Record of Decisions

N/A