

MEETING RECORD
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

Thursday, October 27, 2016 – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Altadena Community Center, Altadena, CA

ATTENDEES

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

Margaret Clark, *Rivers & Mountains Conservancy*

Ann Croissant, *San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy*

Ron Ellingson, *Mt. Baldy*

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel, *Community Hiking Club*

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

Belinda Faustinos, *San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition*

Henry Herrera, *CalFire*

Omar Gomez, *Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM)*

Kelly Gardner, *San Gabriel Valley Water Association*

Richard Guttenberg, *Archeology/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*

Mike McNutt, *Palmdale Water District*

Steve Messer, *Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association*

John Mosen, *The Sierra Club*

Chuck Myers, *National Forest Homeowners*

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

Judy Nelson, *City of Glendora*

Michelle Nuttall, *Southern California Edison*

Liz Reilly, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Bill Reeves, *Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps*

Daniel Rossman, *The Wilderness Society*

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

W. Lee Smith (for Rick Travis), *California Rifle and Pistol Association*

FOREST SERVICE

Jeffrey Vail, Matthew Bokach and Adrienne Dunfee, Angeles National Forest

CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM

Karen DiBari, Edward Belden and Emily Olsen, National Forest Foundation

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS

- To submit the consensus comments on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Draft Management Plan & Draft Environmental Assessment (EA):
 - (1) Members will review the signature page and let NFF know if they would like to be listed differently or if there are any spelling, title, or affiliation errors.
 - (2) NFF will submit the official comment letter (cover letter and plan markups) on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Draft Management Plan & Draft EA to the Forest Service.

- (3) Communications & Engagement Committee will develop a press release and distribute the release with the comment letter following review by the Steering Committee.
- NFF will send the draft letters on the scoping of the Cattle Canyon/East Fork Project and in support of the grant application to the Southern California Association of Governments to the SGMCC for final review via email. Joe Lyons and/or Margaret Clark (SGMCC Steering Committee Chair and Co-Chair) will sign the letters on behalf of the SGMCC. Both letters will also include the previously approved disclaimer language for letters of support since the letters did not go through a full consensus process due to time constraints.
 - NFF will send an invitation letter to Theodore Sanler, signed by Joe Lyons, on behalf of the SGMCC.
 - Steering Committee will further refine and transmit the letter to the Council for Watershed Health in support of Chris Solek's SGMCC participation.
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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Lyons opened the meeting. Twenty-six members and three Forest Service representatives were present during the meeting.

REACH CONSENSUS ON THE MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN COVER LETTER AND PLAN MARKUPS

Karen DiBari reviewed the process the SGMCC has gone through to develop the Monument Management Plan comments (including a cover letter and plan markups). Following extensive discussion, members reached consensus agreements:

- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC approved the cover letter on the draft Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.
- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC approved the draft Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment markups.

Karen DiBari noted that several members who were unable to attend the meeting communicated that they were comfortable with the language and could support the letter and plan markups on behalf of their respective organizations.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Joe Lyons shared the Committee's proposal to sign the consensus comments with all members and alternates that have been active in the process.

- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC agreed to sign the consensus cover letter with the names and affiliations of members and alternates who participated in the process. Members and alternates can choose how they would like to be described (title/affiliation). Members and alternates who have not been able to actively participate will not be listed.

ACTION ITEMS

Members discussed and agreed to the following process for transmitting the comment letter and plan markups:

- (1) Members will review the signature page and let NFF know if they would like to be listed differently or if there are any spelling, title, or affiliation errors.
- (2) NFF will submit the official comment letter (cover letter and plan markups) on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Draft Management Plan & Draft EA to the Forest Service.
- (3) Communications & Engagement Committee will develop a press release and distribute the release with the comment letter following review by the Steering Committee.

Additionally, in response to Forest Supervisor Jeffrey Vail's request to discuss the SGMCC's letter to clarify any questions, the SGMCC will schedule a discussion with Forest Service staff on the December agenda, focused on clarifying questions, during the December 8th SGMCC meeting.

Click [here](#) to view the consensus comments (cover letter and plan markups).

CATTLE CANYON DISCUSSION

Rob Romanek, Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), discussed the Cattle Canyon project with the SGMCC.

In response to many issues, including heavy traffic congestion, limited parking, unsafe user-created trails, unsustainable river recreation, the existence of critical habitat for the Santa Ana Sucker, and others, the WCA and partners developed the Cattle Canyon project for the East Fork of the San Gabriel River near the Cattle Canyon Confluence.

The purpose and need for the project focuses on several key objectives:

- Provide recreation facilities and infrastructure
- Shift and concentrate recreational use
- Promote stewardship of public lands
- Allow for better management of the recreation resources of the National Forest
- Improve riparian habitat conditions and in certain areas make progress on restoration

The project has been in the works since 2006, and is moving through environmental analysis. The Forest Service and WCA are currently requesting comments as part of the scoping phase of NEPA/CEQA. Rob Romanek and Deputy Monument Manager Adrienne Dunfee encouraged the SGMCC to attend upcoming public meetings. Additionally, the SGMCC decided to draft a letter in support of the process.

- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC drafted and approved a brief scoping comment letter in support of the Cattle Canyon/East Fork Project.

Click [here](#) to view the scoping comment letter.

Rob also reported that the WCA will submit an application for a Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) access planning grant. Rob encouraged the SGMCC to submit a letter of support to add to the grant application.

- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC drafted and approved a letter in support of the SCAG access planning grant.

[Click here](#) to view the letter in support of the access planning grant.

ACTION ITEMS

- NFF will send the draft letters out to the SGMCC for final review via email.
- Joe Lyons and/or Margaret Clark (SGMCC Steering Committee Chair and Co-Chair) will sign the letters on behalf of the SGMCC. Both letters will also include the previously approved disclaimer language for letters of support since the letters did not go through a full consensus process due to time constraints.

[Click here](#) to view Rob's presentation.

MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee shared several membership-related proposals with the SGMCC:

- (1) Approve Theodore Sanler as the SGMCC new youth representative
- (2) Approve a letter in support of Chris Solek's participation in the SGMCC
- (3) Using the membership application, seek applicants for the motorized/off-road recreation SGMCC seat.

- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC approved Theodore Sanler as the new SGMCC youth representative.
- ❖ **Consensus:** SGMCC approved a letter to the Council for Watershed Health in support of Chris Solek's participation on the SGMCC.

ACTION ITEMS

- NFF will send an invitation letter to Theodore Sanler, signed by Joe Lyons, on behalf of the SGMCC.
- Steering Committee will further refine and transmit the letter to the Council for Watershed Health in support of Chris Solek's SGMCC participation.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Monument & Transportation Plan committee successfully finished their efforts for the year and will begin meeting regularly again in 2017.
- Communications and Engagement Committee will develop a plan for communications in the next several months.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS & MEETING FEEDBACK

The December meeting will be Thursday, December 8 at the Angelus Mountain Center. NFF

will send out additional details and an agenda prior to the meeting.

SGMCC members shared thoughts on what worked well during the process and meeting and what could be improved in the future:

What worked well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to put together a letter and a message to the Forest Service as a group. Appreciate the work of the committee. • Everyone’s participation and involvement in and outside of meetings. Committee work helped us be more productive. • Development of the letter shows that the group is building trust – major accomplishment. • Amazing seeing the group come together and build trust. • Quickly came to agreement. • Great opportunity for everyone to grow trust, get to know many different people, and see amazing leadership from Michelle and others. • NFF staffing. • Being very nimble – today we reached agreement on three big projects ! • Amazing that we’re here. Approvals today proved how far the group has come. • Coming from someone who doesn’t believe in meetings, the meetings are efficient. • If people from such diverse perspectives can come together and find agreement, then this process is proof that we can find points of agreement among people that we didn’t know before. Thanks to Michelle for her leadership! • Members respect each other and trust what other members say because they’ve had a chance to get to know everyone over the past two years. Everyone in the group truly wants to collaborate. Can’t wait to get started on what will come after the Monument Management Plan. • Kizh Tribe appreciates being at the table. Congratulations. • Opportunity to learn a lot. Good facilitation from Karen. Congrats to everyone. • Good synergy among the group, with a lot of talent among the members. Members have been able to learn a lot by listening.
What should we improve?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document management – sometimes it was challenging to reconcile multiple versions of a document. • Further working on processes to get letters, press releases, and other items out on behalf of the Collaborative in an efficient manner. • Measurement of success will be the degree to which the Collaborative’s recommendations and comments are accepted and implemented. • Research shows that when group members spend informal time getting to know each other they work better together over time. We should take more informal time together to solidify the good relationships – meals, field trips, hikes, etc. • Want to make sure we celebrate the significance of what we’ve accomplished. The Collaborative’s comments are well-written and nationally significant.

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Decision	Consensus
Approve cover letter on the draft Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.	Yes
Approve the draft Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment markups.	Yes
Agree to sign the consensus cover letter with the names and affiliations of members and alternates who participated in the process. Members and alternates can choose how they would like to be described (title/affiliation).	Yes
Approve a scoping comment letter in support of the Cattle Canyon/East Fork Project.	Yes
Approve a letter in support of the SCAG access planning grant.	Yes
Approve Theodore Sanler as the new SGMCC youth representative.	Yes
Approve a letter in support of Chris Solek's participation on the SGMCC.	Yes

DRAFT