

MEETING RECORD
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE
 Thursday, December 8, 2016 – 9:00 AM-10:30 AM
 Angelus Mountain Center, 3697 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001

ATTENDEES

Member	Present
Jacqueline Ayer , <i>Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley) and Acton Town Council</i>	x
Irma "Kelly" Carle , <i>Antelope Valley Unit, Backcountry Horseman of California</i>	x
Margaret Clark , <i>Rivers & Mountains Conservancy</i>	x
Ann Croissant , <i>San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy</i>	x
Dianne Erskine Hellrigel , <i>Community Hiking Club</i>	x
Henry Herrera , <i>CalFire</i>	x
Armond Ghazarian , <i>Los Angeles County Department of Public Works</i>	x
Richard Guttenberg , <i>Archeology/Culture</i>	x
Cliff Hamlow , <i>San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers</i>	x

Jackson Lam (for Mark Masaoka), <i>Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council</i>	x
Joseph Lyons , <i>San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments</i>	x
Steve Messer , <i>Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association</i>	x
John Monsen , <i>The Sierra Club</i>	x
Chuck Myers , <i>National Forest Homeowners</i>	x
Judy Nelson , <i>City of Glendora</i>	x
Michelle Nuttall , <i>Southern California Edison</i>	x
Bill Reeves , <i>Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps</i>	x
Liz Reilly , <i>San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments</i>	x
Theodore Sanler , <i>College of the Canyons</i>	x
Linda Taira (for Dale Benson), <i>California Department of Transportation</i>	x

FOREST SERVICE

Jeffrey Vail, Matthew Bokach, Adrienne Dunfee, Gina Sampson, Angeles National Forest

CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM

Mary Mitsos and Edward Belden, National Forest Foundation

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Supervisor Vail will update the SGMCC on the status and responses to the Draft Monument Plan/EA comment letter.
 - 2) NFF will send out to the Steering Committee the draft letter of support and project description for the Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project and submit the final to the Angeles National Forest.
 - 3) NFF will send out to the entire SGMCC the draft sample letter and project description for Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project for individual members to submit letters of support.
 - 4) The NFF will send out a link to HR 845, [National Forest Trails Stewardship Act](#).
 - 5) The NFF developed a form for SGMCC members to complete for outdoor educational resources and will compile the responses to develop a list of resources to be posted on the SGMCC website. Please [fill out the form here](#).
-

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Lyons opened the meeting. Twenty members and four Forest Service representatives were present during the meeting.

DISCUSS SGMCC CONSENSUS COMMENTS WITH ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST (ANF) LEADERSHIP

Supervisor Jeffrey Vail provided an update on the status of the Monument Management Plan/Environmental Analysis and a few other items.

- The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Monument Plan comment period closed on November 1, 2016, the ANF received at least 200 comments on the plan, and the team is categorizing the comments to ensure all are addressed and evaluated.
- All comments will be treated equally, but the 12 categories of the comments provided in the SGMCC comment letter has been a good starting point for key areas to focus on in for the final plan.
- Supervisor Vail is working with the general counsel and regional planning to determine what types of responses can be provided to the SGMCC and will update the group at the January 26, 2017, SGMCC meeting.
- The [Gateway to Nature Center](#) is now open at the historic El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument in Downtown Los Angeles is a joint center supported by the Western National Parks Association, U. S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and El Pueblo Historical Monument. Supervisor Vail was [interviewed by KPCC](#) about the center and how it is an opportunity for the Forest to have wheels under it so it can meet the people where they are. Jeff would appreciate additional ideas of how to make the center even better.
- Angeles National Forest/ San Gabriel Mountains National Monument staff and Smokey Bear took part in the inaugural Urban Kids Fishing Derby at Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Park, on November 12, 2016.

- Supervisor Vail met with Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel to tour the St. Francis Dam and the proposed Monument area. Supervisor Vail appreciated Dianne's conviction and said the site has a strong story that needs to be heard.
- With the new Washington Administration, there will be some changes, but they do not know what they will be. The U.S. Forest Service has been around for 100 years and will adjust as needed.

Adrienne Dunfee provided an update on the Cattle Canyon/East Fork Improvements project and a new Capital Improvement Project at Chilao Campground and Visitor Center.

- The Cattle Canyon/East Fork Improvements Project scoping period closed and they had approximately 40 attendees at the public meetings. She appreciated the letter of support and comments from the SGMCC and they are looking forward to making positive changes in the area. The environmental review process is scheduled to be complete with a signed record of decision in February 2018. The Forest Service and Watershed Conservation Authority received feedback that the Baldwin Park meeting location was in a good general area, but the particular meeting room was very challenging to find.
 - The Forest Service is seeking funding from a Forest Service National Capital Improvements grant to repair the water system for the Chilao Visitor Center and Campground. The center is important for programs such as Every Kid in the Park, Agent of Discovery, and general outreach to the community, and they are requesting close to 750K for the project. The Forest Service is looking for additional letters of support and will provide a sample letter and project description.
 - The full collaborative and individual members of the SGMCC were interested in providing letters of support. The NFF will send out the sample letter from the Forest Service to the entire SGMCC.
 - Gina Simpson was introduced as the acting Partnerships Coordinator for the ANF and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and she is excited to bring her experience from many national forest positions to the job.
- ❖ **Consensus:** The SGMCC approved a letter of support for the Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project. The letter will be vetted by the Steering Committee for approval and then distributed to the full collaborative for any red flags and submitted to the Forest Service by the NFF.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Supervisor Vail will update the SGMCC on the status and responses to the Draft Monument Plan/EA comment letter.
- 2) NFF will send out to the Steering Committee the draft letter of support and project description for the Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project and submit the final to the Angeles National Forest.
- 3) NFF will send out to the entire SGMCC the draft sample letter and project description for Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project for individual members to submit letters of support.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Steering Committee

Meetings have been somewhat challenging due to slim participation but everything is moving forward, and the committee is working well together.

Communications Committee

The communications committee drafted and submitted a press release on behalf of the SGMCC regarding the importance of connecting recently approved Los Angeles County Ballot Measures A & M to the San Gabriel Mountains.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS & MEETING FEEDBACK

Youth

Youth in the Outdoors was discussed by the group.

- Nature Deficit Disorder is a continuing problem as the time spent looking at screens increases, many groups are looking at finding new and creative ways to engage youth in the outdoors.
- One approach that has been used by the Forest Service and partners are virtual reality games and hikes including these in the San Gabriel Mountains: the [Discovery Agents game at Chilao](#) and the project coordinated by the National Forest Foundation developing an interactive Virtual Hike along the Silver Moccasin Trail both in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Diane, via the Community Hiking Club, has worked with many schools and youth and found that the kids are always excited to get outside and love the experience.
- Bill Reeves, through the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC), provides the Trout in the Classroom program which delivers eggs to classrooms who develop them to small trout and release the trout in Lytle Creek. They would like to expand the program and bring it to Santa Anita Canyon. They offer three cycles per year and have served thousands of youth.
- The ANF and Monument received an award from the Forest Service regional office for engaging youth and bringing thousands of youth to the forest through the Every Kid in a Park program.
- The [California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism](#) adopted the [California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights](#), which was mentioned as a relevant initiative.
- There was interest from the SGMCC to have a list of educational resources. The NFF will develop a form for SGMCC members to complete, compile responses to develop a list of resources for educational opportunities, and post it to the SGMCC website. There will also be an opportunity for those groups to present to the SGMCC if the SGMCC so wishes.

Trails and HR 845

- The relationship between trail work and volunteers in regards to HR 845, the [National Trails Stewardship Act](#), was brought up and the NFF will send out a link.
- Supervisor Vail is looking for additional ways to get trail projects moving and potentially adding a trails coordinator position.

Measure A & M

- The cities adjacent to the ANF will be developing a list of opportunities with Measure A funds and they might be able to align their priorities with Forest Service priorities. It was agreed it would be worthwhile to have the Collaborative evaluate this opportunity.
- The concept of having a meeting with the Administrators of the Measures A & M with relevant groups: border cities, LA County Parks, unincorporated areas, and Forest Service were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

- 4) The NFF will send out a link to HR 845, [National Forest Trails Stewardship Act](#).
- 5) The NFF developed a form for SGMCC members to complete for outdoor educational resources and will compile the responses to develop a list of resources to be posted on the SGMCC website. Please [fill out the form here](#).

The meeting was adjourned to host the inaugural San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative Public Reception.

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Decision	Consensus
Approve a letter of support for the Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System project. The letter will be vetted by the Steering Committee for approval and then distributed to the full collaborative for any red flags and submitted to the Forest Service by the NFF.	Yes