

MEETING RECORD
San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative
 Tuesday, October 6, 2015
 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 DoubleTree Hotel, Monrovia, CA

Attendees

Andrew Silva, *San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors*

Ann Croissant, *San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy*

Armond Ghazarian, *Los Angeles Department of Public Works*

Belinda Faustinos, *San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition*

Chuck Myers, *National Forest Homeowners*

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

Diane Erskine Hellrigel, *Community Hiking Club*

Dale Benson, *California Department of Transportation, District 7*

Daniel Rossman, *The Wilderness Society*

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

Henry Herrera, *CalFire*

Jack Sahl, *Friends of the Angeles*

Jeffrey Vail, *Angeles National Forest*

Joe Llewellyn, *Angeles National Forest*

John Monsen, *The Sierra Club*

Judy Nelson, *City of Glendora*

Katie Distelrath, *City of Claremont, Human Services, Youth Programs*

Kelly Gardner (for Greg Galindo), *San Gabriel Valley Water Association*

Linda Wucherpfennig, *California Off-Road Vehicle Association*

Liz Reilly, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Margaret Clark, *Rivers & Mountains Conservancy*

Mark Masaoka, *Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council*

Mike McNutt, *Palmdale Water District*

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

Shawn Troeger, *Community of Wrightwood*

Steve Messer, *Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association*

Tim Brick, *Arroyo Seco Foundation*

CONVENORS/FACILITATION TEAM

Mary Mitsos, Edward Belden and Emily Olsen, *National Forest Foundation*

Welcome & Introduction

Mary Mitsos welcomed all participants to the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative meeting. Twenty-five Community Collaborative members, two Forest Service representatives, and three National Forest Foundation staff were present.

Forest Service Update

Jeffrey Vail discussed the upcoming anniversary of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (October 10th) and a celebratory event the Angeles National Forest (ANF) is hosting

on October 16th. Jeffrey formally invited the Collaborative. The purpose of the event is to acknowledge the anniversary and issue a call to action to support work in the Monument.

Jeffrey also provided several updates:

- ANF staff are developing a plan of work; the highest priority is the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan (which will amend the existing Angeles National Forest Plan).
 - **Action item:** Jeffrey will send a letter describing work plan priorities to the NFF to distribute to the Collaborative.
- The ANF is beginning a reorganization process, and expects to move from three ranger districts to two. Leadership positions will be staffed as follows:
 - Forest Supervisor and Deputy Forest Supervisor
 - Ranger District: District Ranger and Deputy District Ranger
 - Ranger District: National Monument Manager and Deputy Manager
- The [Field Ranger Program](#) began this summer with four rangers. The purpose of the program is to provide direct interaction with visitors to help visitors learn about and explore the National Monument and National Forest lands. The ANF hopes to double the number of rangers in FY2016.
- A planning team is currently analyzing 500 public comments that were received in response to the “Need to Change” Analysis. The team hopes to develop a summary of the comments this fall. Additionally, the ANF hopes to make the first two chapters of the draft Environmental Assessment available via the Forest Service website this winter. The ANF is still on track to finish the Monument Management Plan prior to October 2017.
- One component of the Monument Management Plan will be a transportation plan, as called for in the National Monument Proclamation. The ANF will strive to emphasize the proper goals in the transportation plan component in order to position the agency for project-level work in the future. The transportation plan requirement is not typical for a Forest Service-managed monument, especially one as large as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The ANF is committed to working with local government, state and federal agencies, and other partners to develop the transportation plan component, and is prioritizing connections to *all* surrounding communities.
- **Action item:** In response to a question from National Forest Homeowners representative Chuck Myers, ANF staff will work with Chuck to determine the number of recreational residences currently under permit.

Update on Current San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund Projects

Edward Belden provided an update on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund.

- The NFF exceeded the \$3 million fund goal; to date the NFF has raised \$3.5 million.
- Current projects being implemented include:
 - Invasive weed removal on 141 acres on focusing on Spanish broom

- Oaks Picnic Site improvements
- Nature ambassador program with eight youth from Pacoima Beautiful over 10 weekends during the summer in Big Tujunga
- Arundo removal (final planning work is completed; work will start in October or November for the purpose of water replenishment)
- Chaparral restoration pilot project covering five acres
- Watershed health projects with Youth Conservation Corps
- **Action item:** NFF staff will post a summary of current projects on the NFF's San Gabriel Mountains website and a summary of the funding pledged for the projects.

Discuss & Seek Agreement on SGMCC Membership Decisions

On behalf of the Membership Working Group, Mary led a discussion around Community Collaborative members. Decisions and action items are captured below.

Academia (arts, history & culture):

- Decision to invite Dr. William Estrada (*Academia – arts, history, and culture seat*) and Richard Guttenberg (*Academia – archaeology seat*) to join the Collaborative.
- **Action item:** On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send invitations to Dr. Estrada and Richard Guttenberg.

Recreation (equestrian):

- Decision to invite Mary Kaufman (*Recreation-equestrian seat*) to join the Collaborative.
- **Action item:** On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send an invitation to Mary Kaufman.

Recreation (fishing/angling):

- Community Collaborative members agreed that the fishing/angling community is important and the seat will be open until filled.
- **Action item:** NFF will draft proposed application guidelines for new members. The Membership Working Group will review and approve the guidelines. Once application guidelines are approved, the full Community Collaborative will have two weeks to reach out to candidates that may be interested in filling the seat. Applications will be discussed at the December meeting.

Recreation (hunting/shooting):

- Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association/California Rifle and Pistol Association submitted letters to the Community Collaborative to request participation. The group discussed the letters in the context of filling the vacant Hunting/Shooting seat. However, the Community Collaborative felt strongly that a local community member should fill the *hunting/shooting* seat, and developed a message for the NFF to send to Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association/California Rifle and Pistol Association to request applications from local representatives.

- **Action item:** On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send a message to Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association/ California Rifle and Pistol Association to request applications from local representatives.
- Community Collaborative members are also encouraged to ask local candidates who may be interested in the Hunting/Shooting seat to apply in accordance with the membership application guidelines once they are approved by the Membership Working Group. Applications will be discussed at the December meeting.

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors:

- NFF staffed contacted representatives for Supervisors Solis and Antonovich. Both supervisors are interested in being involved with the Community Collaborative, but have limited availability.
- **Action item:** NFF staff will reach out to the Supervisors' representatives to request their participation in 2016 (since meetings will move from Tuesdays to Thursdays).

Members who haven't attended recent meetings:

- Community Collaborative members mentioned that several members haven't attended recent meetings. The Community Collaborative asked the NFF to follow up.
- **Action item:** NFF staff will identify members who haven't attended the last few meetings and will follow up with each member regarding their future participation in the Community Collaborative.

Discuss Decision Rule Options

Following much discussion, the Community Collaborative proposed the consideration of a new decision rule, which is pending further discussion and approval by the Collaborative:

If the Community Collaborative cannot reach consensus after at least two attempts that include discussions with members who cannot agree, another attempt at consensus will be made at a subsequent meeting. If that attempt at consensus is not successful, the Community Collaborative will vote on the issue. The issue will be approved if at least 90% of those Community Collaborative members present in the room agree.

Action item: Collaborative members will share the proposed decision rule with their constituents for consideration. The proposed rule will be discussed at the December meeting.

Wrap up and Next Steps

The November meeting is cancelled. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday! The next Community Collaborative meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8th from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM**. Location information will follow.

Starting in January 2016, Community Collaborative meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of every month. Upcoming meeting dates in 2016 are listed below.

- January 28, 2016
- February 25, 2016
- March 24, 2016
- April 28, 2016
- May 26, 2016
- June 23, 2016
- July 28, 2016
- August 26, 2016

Requested Meeting Topics & Agenda Items

The Community Collaborative suggested focusing on the following topics in the future:

- Angeles National Forest presentation on staffing priorities, new programs/objectives, and existing gaps in terms of staffing and program implementation
- Discuss summary of “Need to Change” comments, including how the Community Collaborative’s comments were interpreted
- Develop presentation materials that Community Collaborative members can use to share information about the National Monument and Community Collaborative with constituents. Members want to be able to share a consistent message.
- Public Relations work – For example, develop a 1-page document describing the Community Collaborative that can be shared with the public.
- Discuss and provide input around prioritization of Forest Service projects.

Collaborative members discussed how each topic seems to fall into one of three categories – planning, project engagement, and community engagement/communications – and suggested that each category could become a committee tasked with carrying out specific tasks.

October 16th San Gabriel Mountains National Monument anniversary event

- The Community Collaborative decided that Cliff Hamlow would share brief remarks on behalf of the Community Collaborative during the event.

Record of Decisions

Decision	Consensus
Invite Dr. William Estrada (<i>Academia – arts, history, and culture seat</i>) and Richard Guttenberg (<i>Academia – archaeology seat</i>) to join the Collaborative.	Yes
Invite Mary Kaufman (<i>Recreation-equestrian seat</i>) to join the Collaborative.	Yes
The Community Collaborative will request applications from candidates interested in filling the <i>Recreation (fishing/angling)</i> .	Yes
On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send the message described in the notes to Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association/California Rifle and Pistol Association, and will request applications from local candidates interested in filling the <i>Recreation (hunting/shooting) seat</i> .	Yes
Cliff Hamlow will share brief remarks on behalf of the Community Collaborative during the October 16 th National Monument anniversary event.	Yes

ACTION ITEMS

- Jeffrey Vail will send a letter describing ANF work plan priorities to the NFF to distribute to the Collaborative.
- In response to a question from National Forest Homeowners representative Chuck Myers, ANF staff will work with Chuck to determine the number of recreational residences currently under permit.
- NFF staff will post a summary of current projects funded through the San Gabriel Fund on the NFF's San Gabriel Mountains website.
- On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send invitations to Dr. Estrada and Richard Guttenberg.
- On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send an invitation to Mary Kaufman.
- NFF will draft proposed application guidelines for new members. The Membership Working Group will review and approve the guidelines.
- Once application guidelines are approved, the full Community Collaborative will have two weeks to reach out to candidates who may be interested in filling the *Recreation (fishing/angling)* and *Recreation (hunting/shooting)* seats. Applications will be discussed at the December meeting.
- On behalf of the Community Collaborative, NFF staff will send the message described in the notes to Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association/California Rifle and Pistol Association.
- NFF staff will reach out to the County of LA Supervisors' representatives to request their participation in 2016 (since meetings will move from Tuesdays to Thursdays).
- NFF staff will identify members who haven't attended the last few meetings and will follow up with each member regarding their participation in the Community Collaborative.
- Collaborative members will share the proposed decision rule with their constituents for consideration. The proposed rule will be discussed at the December meeting.
- NFF staff will continue trying to reach Jasmin Angeles to invite her to join the Community Collaborative as an alternate for the youth seat.