

MEETING RECORD**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Palmdale Water District, Palmdale, CA

Attendees

Adam Lane, Los Angeles Business Council
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
Chris Solek, Council for Watershed Health
Chuck Myers, National Forest Homeowners
Claire Robinson, Amigos de los Rios
Cliff Hamlow, San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers
Dale Benson, California Department of Transportation, District 7
Dan Rosenfeld, Community Partners, Trust for Public Land
Daniel Rossman, The Wilderness Society
Dianne Erskine Hellrigel, Community Hiking Club
Henry Herrera, CalFire
Jacqueline Ayer, Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley)
Jack Sahl, Friends of the Angeles

John Monsen, The Sierra Club
John Thornton, Angeles National Forest
Judy Nelson, City of Glendora
Kelly Gardner, San Gabriel Valley Water Association
Linda Wucherpfennig, California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Liz Reilly, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Mark Masaoka, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Mark Stanley (for Margaret Clark), Rivers & Mountains Conservancy
Mike Hansen, Angeles National Forest
Mike McNutt, Palmdale Water District
Nancy Negrete (for Robert Garcia), The City Project
Nino Mascolo (for Michelle Nuttall), Southern California Edison
Richard Guttenberg, Archaeology/Culture
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. Thirty-two Community Collaborative members, two Forest Service representatives, and three National Forest Foundation staff were present. Mary also noted that the NFF posted a

[San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund project list](#) on the SGMCC website. Members are encouraged to review the list.

Forest Service Update & “Need to Change” Comments

Recreation Staffing and Management

District Ranger John Thornton and Assistant Recreation Officer Mike Hansen, Angeles National Forest (ANF), described recreation-related challenges facing the ANF and steps the Forest is taking to address those challenges. Notably, Mike sharing the following statistics:

- Law enforcement staff on the ANF deal with approximately 6,000 incidents each year, which is substantially more than most National Forests.
- The ANF is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers. Volunteers contribute approximately 50,000 hours to ANF projects every year. However, managing so many volunteers also requires a considerable amount of time and resources from ANF staff.

John also noted that the ANF received increased funding from several sources for recreation this year following the National Monument designation, which led to increased capacity for staffing, visitor centers, and campground improvements. However, the increased funding is not necessarily sustainable. *The full presentation is available via the PDF version attached to this record.*

“Need to Change” Comments & Next Steps in the Planning Process

John Thornton provided an update on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument planning process. John also handed out copies of the *Scoping Outcome Summary, Comment Analysis, and Issue/Alternative Identification* prepared by the TEAMS Enterprise Unit (attached).

- The ANF received 917 scoping letters with 1545 individual comments and concerns. The Enterprise Unit categorized individual comments into five key issues: transportation/access; recreational use; sustainable recreation; environmental justice; and wildlife, sensitive species, and threatened and endangered species.
- The *Scoping Outcome Summary* does not provide detailed responses to comments or in-depth analysis of the issues. The Enterprise Team is working closely with the ANF to review the summary and individual comments.
- The report tentatively proposes that the ANF create two alternatives – modified proposed action and no action. The Enterprise Team did not find a significant need for additional alternatives.
- The ANF will release the environmental assessment in draft chapters. John explained that the ANF is releasing the document in parts in order to foster better dialogue as the public reviews smaller chunks of the document prior to seeing the full document.
- Community Collaborative members noted that specific areas that were called out in the Proclamation, such as the transportation plan, don’t seem to be called out in the comment summary. John noted that the ANF is still trying to wrap their heads around the transportation plan, partly due to the lack of specificity in the proclamation.

- The ANF expects to release a draft proposed action by February 2016, which will identify what the ANF will evaluate and compare when making a final decision. The ANF hopes to release chapters 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment by mid-February, followed by chapters 3 and 4 later in the spring.
- The next opportunity for Community Collaborative involvement will be to comment on the draft chapters 1 and 2 of the environmental assessment.

"Bin" Items for Future Discussion:

- Belinda Faustinos, with other members in agreement, suggested that the Collaborative should make a formal recommendation to extend the upcoming comment periods from 45 days to 60 days.
- Jacki Ayer would like to discuss what the transportation plan could/should look like (Jacki noted that this was a suggestion from Jeff Vail at a previous meeting).

ACTION ITEMS:

- John Thornton will work with ANF staff (Justin Seastrand) to follow up with the Collaborative about more specific dates and ways for the Community Collaborative to review, comment on, and engage with the public around the planning process so that the group can plan ahead for winter/spring meetings.
- John Thornton will work with ANF staff to send a schedule of proposed public meetings to the NFF to pass on to Community Collaborative members.
- John Thornton will work with ANF staff to develop a one-page summary of the upcoming process (timeline, process steps, and comment periods); the Collaborative asked the ANF staff to be as specific as possible with the dates to help keep track of the process.
- The Community Collaborative would like more information about how the Enterprise Unit counted comments. In particular, members are interested to know if the Collaborative's comment was counted once or 40 times for the number of signatories.

SGMCC Committees

After lengthy discussion, the Collaborative decided to develop three committees focusing on (1) Monument Management Plan, (2) Communications and Engagement, and (3) Everything beyond the Monument Management Plan. The group also proposed discussing the need for a steering committee in more detail at a future meeting.

NFF will help coordinate the first teleconference meeting for each committee prior to the January 28th meeting to decide the committee structure and function, including whether or not to open membership up to people outside of the Collaborative. Each committee will bring a proposal for structure/function back to the full group at the January 28th meeting. The names of committee volunteers are listed below. Please contact Emily Olsen (eolsen@nationalforests.org) if you would like to join one of the three committees. Please note that Mike McNutt volunteered

to host a WebEx meeting from the Palmdale Water District offices for Antelope Valley members who volunteered to join a committee. Please contact Mike if you're interested.

Committee 1: Monument Management Plan: Identify opportunities to engage in the forest plan amendment process; draft forest planning comments for full group approval

- **Volunteers:** Liz Reilly, Daniel Rossman, Michelle Nuttall, Claire Robinson, Jacqueline Ayer, Adam Lane, Armond Ghazarian, Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel

Committee 2: Everything Beyond the Monument Management Plan

Focus on the body of work outside of the Monument Management Plan (everything but the plan); determine what to work on, and how the work should move forward

- **Volunteers:** Dan Rosenfeld, Chuck Myers, Belinda Faustinos, Chris Solek, Kelly Gardiner, Tim Brick, Linda Wucherpfennig, Steve Messer, Ann Croissant, Richard Guttenberg, Andy Salas

Committee 3: Communication & Engagement

- **Volunteers:** Jack Sahl, Mike McNutt, Judy Nelson, Mark Masaoka, Cliff Hamlow, Chuck Myers, Daniel Rossman

ACTION ITEMS:

- NFF staff will create a worksheet to help each committee develop its proposed purpose, objectives, and structure.
- NFF staff will reach out to each committee to schedule one meeting in January.
- By January 25th, the Communications & Engagement committee should create a proposal for how to communicate the new decision rule (if it's approved in January), and a process and procedure for recording dissenting votes. The committee should also propose amendments to the code of conduct if necessary.

SGMCC Membership

Mary led a discussion around Community Collaborative membership. Decisions and action items are captured below.

Recreation (fishing):

- **Consensus:** Community Collaborative members agreed to invite William (Bill) Reeves (Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps) to fill the *Recreation (fishing)* seat. The Community Collaborative members also agreed to invite John Tobin (Pasadena Casting Club) to serve as an alternate to Bill Reeves.

Recreation (hunting/shooting):

- The Collaborative received two membership nominations from the National Rifle Association (NRA)/California Rifle and Pistol Association (CPRA).
- Collaborative members also discussed Burro Canyon. Judy Nelson communicated with Burro Canyon; however, they did not submit an application.

- Jon Monsen will reach out to Burro Canyon to see if there's another candidate (he'll coordinate with Judy Nelson prior to doing so).
- **Consensus:** The Collaborative agreed to postpone the membership decision to fill the hunting/shooting seat until the January 28th meeting. NFF staff will send the membership application form out to all members. Members are encouraged to find additional applicants.

Miscellaneous:

- **Consensus:** Kelly Gardiner will take Greg Galindo's place as the San Gabriel Valley Water Association representative. Greg will be Kelly's alternate.
- Brent Tercero is no longer the Gateway Council of Governments Chair, so the Collaborative may need a new Gateway COG representative. Belinda Faustinos will reach out to the Gateway COG to see if they would like to appoint a new representative.
- Daniel Rossman noted that he'd like to appoint an alternate, and asked for clarification about how to make a nomination. The "alternate policy" from March 2015 is as follows:

Policy for Alternates (Approved by the SGMCC in March 2015)

- One designated alternate per member.
- It is the member's responsibility to ensure that the alternate operates within the approved code of conduct.
- Alternate can vote in the member's absence; both the member and alternate must honor the vote.
- It is the responsibility of the member and the alternate to keep one another fully informed.
- Only the member or the alternate can attend meetings (due to space issues).
- Regular members are expected to attend meetings at least 80% of the time.
- Alternates can serve on committees as any other member of the public (no special alternate status).
- Process for designating an alternate:
 - Members send NFF staff the alternate's name, organizations/affiliation, title, phone number, and email address.
 - NFF will add alternates to the SGMCC communications list.

ACTION ITEMS:

- NFF staff will send an invitation to fill the *Recreation (fishing)* seat to Bill Reeves.
- NFF staff will send an invitation to serve as Bill Reeve's alternate for the *Recreation (fishing)* seat to John Tobin.
- John Monsen will reach out to Burro Canyon to see if they'd like to nominate someone to fill the *Recreation (hunting/shooting)* seat. He'll coordinate with Judy Nelson prior to reaching out to Burro Canyon, since she communicated with them prior to the December meeting.
- NFF staff will communicate with the NRA/CPRA, noting that the membership decision to fill the hunting/shooting seat is postponed until January 28th.
- NFF staff will send the membership application form to all members. Members are encouraged to find additional applicants for the *Recreation (hunting/shooting)* seat.

- Belinda Faustinos will reach out to the Gateway COG to see if they would like to appoint a new representative.

Discuss Decision Rule Proposal

During the November meeting, the Community Collaborative proposed the consideration of a new decision rule:

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.

The Collaborative was unable to reach agreement on the proposed decision rule. The Collaborative decided to delay action until the January meeting, at which time the group would like to consider the decision rule along with any necessary changes that would need to be made to the code of conduct. The group also tasked the newly-formed Communications & Engagement Committee with determining how to communicate the new decision rule (if it's approved in January), and a process and procedure for recording dissenting votes. The committee should also propose amendments to the code of conduct if necessary.

End-of-Year Survey Results

NFF staff thanked Community Collaborative members for filling out the end-of-year survey. Membership should review the attached survey results, and contact NFF staff with areas of concern or improvement that they feel should be discussed during the January 28th meeting.

RE-CAP: ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- John Thornton will work with ANF staff (Justin Seastrand) to follow up with the Collaborative about more specific dates and ways for the Community Collaborative to review, comment on, and engage with the public around the planning process so that the group can plan ahead for winter/spring meetings.
- John Thornton will work with ANF staff to send a schedule of proposed public meetings to the NFF to pass on to Community Collaborative members.
- John Thornton will work with ANF staff to develop a one-page summary of the upcoming process (timeline, process steps, and comment periods); the Collaborative asked the ANF staff to be as specific as possible with the dates to help keep track of the process.

- The Community Collaborative would like more information about how the Enterprise Unit counted comments. In particular, members are interested to know if the Collaborative's comment was counted once or 40 times for the number of signatories.
- NFF staff will create a worksheet to help each committee develop its proposed purpose, objectives, and structure.
- NFF staff will reach out to each committee to schedule one meeting in January.
- By January 25th, the Communications & Engagement committee should create a proposal for how to communicate the new decision rule (if it's approved in January), and a process and procedure for recording dissenting votes. The committee should also propose amendments to the code of conduct if necessary.
- NFF staff will send an invitation to fill the *Recreation (fishing)* seat to Bill Reeves.
- NFF staff will send an invitation to serve as Bill Reeve's alternate for the *Recreation (fishing)* seat to John Tobin.
- John Monsen will reach out to Burro Canyon to see if they'd like to nominate someone to fill the *Recreation (hunting/shooting)* seat. He'll coordinate with Judy Nelson.
- NFF staff will communicate with the NRA/CPRA, noting that the membership decision to fill the hunting/shooting seat is postponed until January 28th.
- NFF staff will send the membership application form to all members. Members are encouraged to find additional applicants for the *Recreation (hunting/shooting)* seat.
- Belinda Faustinos will reach out to the Gateway COG to see if they would like to appoint a new representative.

Record of Decisions

| Decision | Consensus |
|--|-----------|
| Develop three committees, focusing on: (1) Monument Management Plan, (2) Communications and Engagement, and (3) Everything Beyond the Monument Management Plan. Each committee will bring a proposal for its structure and function back to the full group for consideration in January. | Yes |
| Invite William (Bill) Reeves (Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps) to fill the <i>Recreation (fishing)</i> seat. | Yes |
| Invite John Tobin (Pasadena Casting Club) to serve as an alternate to Bill Reeves for the <i>Recreation (fishing)</i> seat. | Yes |
| Postpone the membership decision to fill the hunting/shooting seat until the January 28 th meeting. | Yes |
| Kelly Gardiner will take Greg Galindo's place as the San Gabriel Valley Water Association representative. Greg will be Kelly's alternate. | Yes |
| Delay action on the proposed decision rule until the January meeting, at which time the group would like to consider the decision rule along with any necessary changes that would need to be made to the code of conduct. | Yes |