

**MEETING RECORD**

**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative**

Monday, August 10, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Altadena Community Center, Altadena

**Attendees**

**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*

**Diane Erskine Hellrigel**, *Community Hiking Club*

**Henry Herrera**, *CalFire*

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

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

**Grace J. Kast**, *Gateway Water Management Authority*

**Jack Sahl**, *Friends of the Angeles*

**Joe Llewellyn**, *Angeles National Forest*

**John Monsen** (for Nidia Erceg), *Sierra Club*

**Judy Nelson**, *Glendora*

**Joseph Lyons**, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

**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*

**Michelle Nuttall**, *Southern California Edison*

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

**Ron Ellingson**, *Mt. Baldy Lodge*

**Shawn Troeger**, *Community of Wrightwood*

**Steve Messer**, *Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association*

**Robert Garcia**, *The City Project*

**Tim Brick**, *Arroyo Seco Foundation*

**Wendy La** (for Ann Croissant), *San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy*

**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-nine Community Collaborative members, one Forest Service representative, and three National Forest Foundation staff were present.

## Seek Agreement on the Unified “Need to Change” Comments

Mary facilitated consensus building around the “Need to Change” Unified Comments letter during the meeting. Members made minor wording and grammatical changes, and decided to remove some sections of the letter. The *SGMCC Unified Plan Comments*, attached, were approved via consensus by the Collaborative.

In addition to reaching consensus on the comment letter, the Collaborative developed and approved a press release to accompany release of the comment letter. NFF was asked to distribute the press release and provide a list of press contacted. The press release is attached.

Because the next public comment period won’t occur until early 2016, the Collaborative encouraged the Forest Service to provide regular check-ins at future meetings so that SGMCC members will be engaged and able to educate the public about the planning process.

## Review Code of Conduct

Community Collaborative members reviewed and discussed the Code of Conduct, and discussed the section about the media, which states:

*Engage with your members, the general public and the media in a way that supports the process and decisions of the Collaborative. Collaborative members who speak to the news media or participate in other forums such as online blogs must clarify that they speak only as an individual and not on behalf of the Collaborative, unless designated to speak on behalf of the Collaborative.*

The SGMCC discussed how this section meant that individual members could speak to the press so long as they did not speak on behalf of the Collaborative (unless asked) and did not speak in opposition to consensus decisions made by the Collaborative.

The Collaborative also discussed the decision rule section, which currently requires full consensus. The discussion included several important points:

- Members spoke for *and* against the consensus approach; some appreciate consensus, and feel that it strengthens agreements and motivates them to find common ground, while others feel that consensus results in “watered down” decisions and doesn’t take full advantage of the expertise of the Collaborative. Some members felt the group could have provided more substantive recommendations to the Forest Service if consensus wasn’t required.
- Ultimately, the SGMCC expressed a desire to consider several options for a decision rule during the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. NFF staff will bring at least three decision rule options to the October meeting.

## Committees: Process and Lessons Learned

In recognition of the Collaborative's desire to form standing committees in the future, members reflected on lessons learned during the "Need to Change" committee process, including what worked, and what could be improved. Members concluded that scheduling committee meetings, especially face-to-face meetings, worked well. The availability and interest of co-chairs (leadership) was also essential to committee success. Finally, members explained that when a committee had diverse interests and reached agreement at the committee level, seeking consensus with the full Collaborative was an easier process.

## Membership Working Group Discussion and Approval of New Members

On behalf of the Membership Working Group, Mary led a discussion around proposals for new members. The Collaborative discussed several key points:

- Collaborative members discussed and approved inviting Katie Distelrath to be the interim youth representative and Jasmine Angeles to be the alternate; the Working Group noted that Katie and Jasmine are encouraged to seek advice from Henry Pedregon due to his experience.
- Membership Working Group members reported that they were unable to reach consensus on proposals for the Academia (Arts, History & Culture), Recreation (Equestrian), Recreation (Fishing/Angling), and Recreation (Hunting/Shooting) seats, and asked the Collaborative to make a decision at a future meeting. The Community Collaborative requested the materials/biographies for each individual before having a discussion at the October meeting.
- Mary Mitsos announced that Alfredo Gonzalez (Other/Community Interest Category) has resigned from the Collaborative due to work obligations. Refilling the Other/Community seat will be up for discussion at a future meeting.
- Members discussed the lack of attendance from LA Board of Supervisors representatives due to meeting conflicts. Members discussed the possibility of moving the regular meeting schedule to day/week of the month other than the first Tuesday. NFF staff will check with the Board of Supervisors representatives to determine whether they would participate if meetings were scheduled on a day/week other than the first Tuesday of every month. NFF staff will also poll SGMCC members to see whether a different meeting schedule would work.

## Wrap up and Next Steps

The next Community Collaborative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Location information will follow.

**The September meeting is cancelled.** Members have not decided whether they will cancel the November or December meetings; however, the Collaborative may consider holding a social event in December.

**Action Items**

- ✓ NFF staff will submit the SGMCC comment letter to the Forest Service, with a membership list, on behalf of the SGMCC. *Completed*
- ✓ NFF staff will send the press release to regional reporters. *Completed*
- ✓ NFF staff will send the reporter list to the SGMCC; members should let the NFF know if they missed anyone that should also receive the release. *Completed*
- ✓ NFF staff will review decision rules used by the Dinkey Collaborative and other collaborative groups, and will bring at least three decision rule options to the October meeting for consideration by the SGMCC.
- ✓ SGMCC members will discuss attendance, proxy voting, public observer, and alternate policies at a future meeting, and will determine whether the policies should be incorporated into the Code of Conduct.
- ✓ Joe Llewellyn will find out and communicate opportunities for collaborative engagement between August (the close of the “Need to Change” comment period) and the next public comment period (early 2016).
- ✓ NFF staff will send the Community Collaborative background materials/biographies for individuals suggested to fill the Academia (Arts, History & Culture), Recreation (Equestrian), Recreation (Fishing/Angling), and Recreation (Hunting/Shooting) seats in advance of the October meeting so the full Collaborative can make a decision on filling empty seats.
- ✓ NFF staff will check with the Board of Supervisors representatives to determine whether they would participate if meetings were scheduled on a day/week other than the first Tuesday of every month.
- ✓ NFF staff will poll SGMCC members to see whether a different meeting schedule would work.

**Record of Decisions**

Decision	Consensus
Approve the SGMCC Unified Comments on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument “Need to Change”	Yes
Approve distribution of a press release announcing completion of the SGMCC comments	Yes
Approve inviting Katie Distelrath to be the interim youth seat and Jasmine Angeles to be the alternate	Yes