

MEETING RECORD**San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative**

Thursday, March 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Altadena Community Center, Altadena, CA

Attendees

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

Gary Boyer (for Judy Nelson), *City of Glendora*

Tim Brick, *Arroyo Seco Foundation*

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

Ron Ellingson, *Mt. Baldy Lodge*

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel, *Community Hiking Club*

Kelly Gardner, *San Gabriel Valley Water Association*

Richard Guttenberg, *Archaeology/Culture*

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

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

Joseph Lyons, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Brian Mejia (for Kathryn Barger), *LA County Board of Supervisors – 5th District*

Steve Messer, *Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association*

John Monsen, *The Sierra Club*

Chuck Myers, *National Forest Homeowners*

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

Michelle Nuttall, *Southern California Edison*

Angel Perales (for Daniel Oaxaca), *San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps*

Mark Stanley (for Margaret Clark), *Rivers & Mountains Conservancy*

Liz Reilly, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

Claire Robinson, *Amigos de los Rios*

Tamera Robinson, *Equestrian Community*

Jack Sahl, *Friends of the Angeles*

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

Jessica Strickland (for Belinda Faustinos), *San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition*

John Tobin (for Bill Reeves), *Pasadena Casting Club*

Linda Wucherpfennig, *California Off-Road Vehicle Association*

FOREST SERVICE

Jeffrey Vail, Joseph Llewellyn, Sherry Rollman, and Justin Seastrand, *Angeles National Forest*

CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM

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

Welcome & Introduction

Mary Mitsos welcomed all participants to the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) meeting. Twenty-seven SGMCC members and alternates, four Forest Service representatives, and three National Forest Foundation staff were present. Mary noted that SGMCC members approved the February 25th meeting record, and reviewed the meeting objectives:

- Discuss the National Monument Planning & Public Engagement Process
- Discuss Ideas to Engage Youth in the National Monument
- Share Committee Updates

Forest Service Updates

Jeffrey Vail, Angeles National Forest (ANF) Supervisor, shared an update about Monument Management Plan milestones. Based on the most recent timeline, chapters 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are under review. Drafts of chapters 1 and 2 will be online for viewing in April. The ANF aims to release the draft EA in June. The ANF will also host public meetings in June.

In response to the SGMCC's request to extend the public comment period, Supervisor Vail agreed to extend the period from 45 to 60 days. However, the ANF still plans to finalize the Monument Management Plan in October 2017 (the overall process will not be extended).

Supervisor Vail also shared the following updates:

- Southern California Association of Governments will host a transportation workshop in Azusa on April 28th. Additional details are forthcoming.
- There are a number of youth initiatives occurring this year on the ANF, including the youth conservation corps, mobilize green for youth, field ranger program, and field trip opportunities for fourth graders through Every Kid in a Park.
- ANF is filling 15 priority positions on the Forest, including a hydrologist, environmental coordinator, Monument Manager, and Deputy Monument Manager
- ANF is under reorganization to two districts – one will encompass the National Monument and the other will encompass the rest of the ANF.
- ANF is working on communications in several ways: (1) working with NFF to improve project tracking efforts so that it's easier to share accomplishments, (2) stepping up efforts to report internally, (3) taking a fresh look at external reporting.

In response to Vail's communications update, SGMCC members discussed the importance of sharing accomplishments with the public. Diane Erskine Hellrigel encouraged members to write letters to the editor. The SGMCC also asked for frequent progress updates from the ANF to share with local citizens and constituents. Supervisor Vail offered to have Sherry Rollman share the ANF newsletter with the Collaborative.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Sherry Rollman will add the Collaborative members to the ANF Newsletter email list.

Discussion: Planning & Public Engagement Process Design

The SGMCC discussed the public meetings that occurred in 2015 during the process to review the Need to Change Analysis. SGMCC members provided the following comments to share with the ANF and Communications & Engagement committee:

What worked well?

- Knowledgeable Forest Service staff at each public meeting
- Staff were willing to go in-depth and answer questions
- Forest Service was open to hold meetings at different locations, accommodate scheduling, and provide many opportunities to participate around the region
- Forest Service extended meeting hours later in the evening
- Meetings were helpful for people with basic knowledge of the forest planning process
- Maps and information passed out were very helpful

What could be improved?

- FS staff could lead a basic orientation to the planning process at intervals (in a separate room) during the meeting so that people with little or no forest planning knowledge could attend an orientation and build knowledge *prior to* going into the regular meeting. Orientation could take different forms - presentation, video, or PowerPoint presentation that SGMCC members could give.
- Include facilitated discussions by the ID Team Leader to help facilitate development of effective comments (related to desired conditions and other plan components).
- SGMCC members could attend the public meetings and have a table or sign to let people know that there are community members involved that can answer questions.
- Increase the geographic spread of meetings if possible. There wasn't a meeting in Santa Clarita, so few people from Santa Clarita attended the meetings.
- Take steps to democratize the planning process and ensure participants feel valued. Work hard to make sure people know their voice is important.
- Potentially start the meeting with a general presentation, followed by time for comments or topic-specific breakouts.
- Think outside of the box during and in-between public meetings. Potentially host webinars, or create a video explaining the forest planning process.
- SGMCC members could help the FS discuss how the SGMNM amendment/Management Plan will impact different stakeholders and user groups.
- Recognize local groups, volunteers, and partners during public meetings to add more excitement and a local connection.
- Some attendees (e.g., hikers, equestrians) weren't sure what to ask during the meetings; list of FAQs would have helped people know what to ask or how to build on previous questions.
- Ask SGMCC members to serve as greeters to welcome people as they come into the room, let them know where to go, send attendees to the orientation if needed, and answer general questions.

ACTION ITEMS:

- NFF staff will send the discussion points to the ANF for further consideration as they plan the next public involvement process and June public meetings.
- SGMCC Communications & Engagement Committee will discuss the SGMCC's ideas about sharing National Monument updates with the public, which came out during the

discussion about the ANF's public meetings, and make a plan for providing information on a regular basis.

Discussion: Ideas to Engage Youth in the National Monument

Katie Distelrath, the youth representative on the SGMCC, serves on the board of the California Parks and Recreation Society. As a result, she has a strong network of colleagues from cities and counties across California. Katie hopes to bring together a committee of public servants who work with youth in the San Gabriel Mountains Region to coordinate on field trips, or develop a project such as a trash pickup day in the Forest. The SGMCC made additional comments about youth engagement:

- Youth participants could come from cities, boys and girls clubs, girl scouts and boy scouts, schools; 4-h and other clubs, YMCA, Sheriffs Youth Activities Group, children's museum, discovery centers, Youth Conservation Corps, local service clubs such as Rotary, church youth groups, etc. (the SGMCC had many ideas).
- Katie works in Claremont, but can coordinate with other cities. She will need help from SGMCC members to coordinate with other entities such as local schools.
- Members asked Katie to involve the north side and extend beyond incorporated cities.
- Brian M. shared several ideas, including the YMCA summer camp in Wrightwood, and offered to put Katie in touch with at-risk programs in LA County (CHILL, DART, etc.).
- Eventually, the SGMCC should strive to be comprehensive and develop a program across the region where youth could have a passport, pictures, and a system to join.
- ANF staff support this effort and appreciate having a youth focused committee group.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Katie Distelrath will move forward to coordinate with colleagues and develop a youth event or one-day program in 2016. Katie will keep the SGMCC informed as the effort moves forward.
- SGMCC members who have local contacts to schools, clubs, at-risk programs, and other youth programs should send full contact information to Katie by May 26th. For example, Jackie Ayer and Linda Wucherpfennig offered to provide ideas and help make local connections on the north side, and Brian Mejia offered to put Katie Distelrath in touch with at-risk programs in LA County (CHILL, DART, etc.).
- NFF staff will contact Jeff Seymour (public schools/education representative) regarding his membership on the SGMCC. The SGMCC would like to make sure a schools representative could attend future meetings.

Sharing of Committee Updates and Proposals

The SGMCC reviewed and discussed edited proposals for the External Projects & Impacts Committee, Communications & Engagement Committee, Monument Plan & Transportation Coordinating Committee, and Steering Committee. After some discussion, the SGMCC

approved each proposal. Approved committee descriptions are available at www.nationalforests.org/SanGabrielMountains.

Consensus: Approve committee descriptions for the External Projects & Impacts Committee, Communications & Engagement Committee, Monument Plan & Transportation Coordinating Committee, and Steering Committee.

Upcoming Meetings & Miscellaneous Business

Upcoming Meetings:

- Transportation workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 28th in Azusa at the Armory from 9:00 AM-2:30 PM; please stay tuned for more details. **There will not be a SGMCC meeting on April 28th.**
- The next SGMCC meeting will be May 26th from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Location TBD.

Miscellaneous Business:

- There's no current representative from the LA County Board of Supervisors, 1st District, at the SGMCC meetings. John Tobin will contact the 1st District to request that a representative attend future SGMCC meetings.

ACTION ITEMS:

- John Tobin will contact the LA County Board of Supervisors, 1st District to request that a representative attend future SGMCC meetings.

Committee Breakouts & Work Plans

The External Projects & Impacts Committee, Communications & Engagement Committee, Monument Plan & Transportation Coordinating Committee spent time during the meeting discussing upcoming projects and priorities. Moving forward, committees will report out, and ask for SGMCC approval of any proposals, during monthly SGMCC meetings.

RE-CAP: ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

- Sherry Rollman will add the Collaborative members to the ANF Newsletter email list.
- NFF staff will send the discussion points to the ANF for further consideration as they plan the next public involvement process and June public meetings.
- SGMCC Communications & Engagement Committee will discuss the SGMCC's ideas about sharing National Monument updates with the public, which came out during the discussion about the ANF's public meetings, and make a plan for providing information on a regular basis.
- Katie Distelrath will move forward to coordinate with colleagues and develop a youth event or one-day program in 2016. Katie will keep the SGMCC informed as the effort moves forward.

- SGMCC members who have local contacts to schools, clubs, at-risk programs, and other youth programs should send full contact information to Katie by May 26th. For example, Jackie Ayer and Linda Wucherpennig offered to provide ideas and help make local connections on the north side, and Brian Mejia offered to put Katie Distelrath in touch with at-risk programs in LA County (CHILL, DART, etc.).
- NFF staff will contact Jeff Seymour (public schools/education representative) regarding his membership on the SGMCC. The SGMCC would like to make sure a schools representative could attend future meetings.
- John Tobin will contact the LA Country Board of Supervisors, 1st District to request that a representative attend future SGMCC meetings.

Record of Decisions

Decision	Consensus
Approve committee descriptions for the External Projects & Impacts Committee, Communications & Engagement Committee, Monument Plan & Transportation Coordinating Committee, and Steering Committee.	Yes

DRAFT