

**MEETING RECORD****San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative**

Thursday, August 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

**Attendees**

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

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

**Dale Benson**, *CalTrans, District 7*

**Margaret Clark**, *Rivers & Mountains Conservancy*

**William Estrada**, *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County*

**Dianne Erskine Hellrigel**, *Community Hiking Club*

**Belinda Faustinos**, *San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition*

**Armond Ghazarian**, *Los Angeles Department of Public Works*

**Kelly Gardner**, *San Gabriel Valley Water Association*

**Omar Gomez**, *Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica*

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

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

**Mike McNutt**, *Palmdale Water District*

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

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

**John Monsen**, *The Sierra Club*

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

**Jackson Lam** (for Mark Masaoka), *Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council*

**Mike McNutt**, *Palmdale Water District*

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

**Bill Reeves**, *Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps*

**Liz Reilly**, *San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments*

**Claire Robinson**, *Amigos de los Rios*

**Daniel Rossman**, *The Wilderness Society*

**Chris Solek**, *Council for Watershed Health*

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

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

**Ben Smith**, *Community of Wrightwood*

**W. Lee Smith** (for Rick Travis), *California Rifle and Pistol Association*

**FOREST SERVICE**

Jeffrey Vail, Matthew Bokach, Adrienne Dunfee, *Angeles National Forest*

Joseph David, *TEAMS Enterprise Unit*

**CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM**

Karen DiBari, Edward Belden and Emily Olsen, *National Forest Foundation*

**Welcome & Introductions**

Karen DiBari welcomed all participants to the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) meeting. Twenty-nine SGMCC members and alternates, four U.S. Forest Service staff,

and three National Forest Foundation staff were present. One guest, Candice Gantt, was present as a note taker for Michelle Nuttall.

Dr. Luis Chiappe, Vice President for Research & Collections, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, welcomed the SGMCC to the Museum. Dr. Chiappe spoke of the interconnections between the work of the Collaborative and the Museum.

Dr. William Estrada, Curator of California and American History and Chair of the History Department, complimented Dr. Chiappe's welcome by reviewing logistical items for the day and introducing the scientists who gave presentations and observed the meeting: Drs. Greg Pauly, Brian Brown, and Kimball Garrett.

### Forest Service Updates

Jeffrey Vail updated the SGMCC on several things that have happened since the June meeting:

- The San Gabriel Complex and Sand fires impacted the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Eighteen homes burned, including several Forest Service employee homes.
- The ANF is staffed up and prepared for the reorganization from three ranger districts to two, but awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Matthew Bokach and Adrienne Dunfee will staff the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument District and Bob Blount and Jamal Butler (new hire) will staff the new district. Staff have proposed naming the new district the "Los Angeles Gateway District," but the name must be approved by USDA.
- During the reorganization Matthew Bokach will serve as the Acting District Ranger on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Rangers District.
- The ANF is in the midst of a 60-day public comment period for the draft Environmental Assessment and Monument Management Plan. The ANF has had recent conversations with Congresswomen Chu and Napolitano about the planning efforts and the hydropower plant in San Gabriel Canyon.
- Following the April transportation workshop, Jeffrey set up a small group of ANF employees to work with private and public partners to explore opportunities for shuttles from new stops along the Gold Line into Chantry Flat, San Gabriel Canyon, and others. They're looking closely at the City of Duarte's shuttle into Fish Canyon as an example. The ANF may experiment with shuttle services this fall as a pilot project running from September 24 to October 9, with a "soft opening" of the pilot shuttle the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> for other ANF staff. The SGMCC is invited to help test the shuttle service and provide constructive feedback.
- The ANF is aware that facilities are inadequate in many areas. The Forest is committed and working to improving these areas and looking holistically at the entire Angeles National Forest, which is a tremendous resource worthy of time and investment.

## Presentations from the National History Museum's Scientists

Dr. Greg Pauly, Assistant Curator of Herpetology, discussed the Museum's Urban Nature Research Center. Dr. Pauly noted that, as the 5<sup>th</sup> greatest metropolitan area within a biodiversity hotspot in the world, LA should be "ground zero" for urban biodiversity research. Dr. Pauly also discussed how the Natural History Museum has been able to use the iNaturalist platform to survey Southern California squirrels, snails, slugs, reptiles and amphibians. For more information, see Dr. Pauly's presentation, [available online for download](#).

Dr. Brian Brown, Curator of Entomology, discussed the Museum's recent citizen science projects. Dr. Brown also shared fascinating statistics from the Museum's BioSCAN project, which has allowed the Museum to collect and identify millions of insects from the LA region. Notably, they identified 43 new fly species through citizen science! For more information, see Dr. Brown's presentation, [available online for download](#).

Dr. Kimball L. Garrett, Ornithologist with the Natural History Museum, shared data and statistics about Southern California birders. LA County has the highest bird diversity of any county in the U.S.; Dr. Garrett said that the research and information the Museum has been able to collect is a gold mine for forest planning. For more information, see Dr. Garrett's presentation, [available online for download](#).

### Q&A and Discussion

SGMCC members asked how the Museum is able to engage the public so successfully. Dr. Pauly and Dr. Brown said there are two key aspects of the engagement: (1) conduct outreach via social media, and (2) invest a lot of energy with the local media to get articles and news stories. They also mentioned that they have "younger and hipper staff" who put newsletters together, and rely on the iNaturalist platform's existing user base, which the Museum can tap.

Jeffrey Vail noted the opportunities for the Museum to partner with the Forest Service's Pacific-Southwest Research Station.

Claire Robinson asked if Dr. Garrett might be able to help develop a list or poster of the birds in the San Gabriel Mountains as part of the mapping project; he said he could probably help because the information is readily available.

## Draft EA & Monument Management Plan Presentation

Joseph David, TEAMS Enterprise Unit Leader, discussed the process and approach for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan Amendment and EA. The Enterprise team is interdisciplinary and comprised of national experts and representatives from the local forest. Joseph explained that the Enterprise Unit is working on the project under a work order with the Regional Office. TEAMS works directly with staff from the ANF, including Justin Seastrand and other resource specialists. Jeffrey is the decision maker. Next steps include responding to

comments, finalizing the EA and drafting a decision notice, and going through the objections process. Joseph's full presentation is [available for download online](#).

### Q&A and Discussion

- In response to questions about the public meetings, Jeffrey explained that the ANF will likely provide remarks at the beginning of each meeting. The ANF wants to be able to engage effectively and gather comments from everyone, including people who know very little about the planning process.
- The Monument planning process is on schedule.
- SGMCC members offered to serve as a focus group or pilot group if the ANF would like to test the public meeting structure to see how it works. SGMCC members also have access to community members who could participate in a test or pilot meeting to figure out the level of information to provide.
- In response to questions about the interdisciplinary team and expertise in education and/or visitor experiences, Joseph noted that the recreation planner has taken the lead with regard to education and interpretative issues.
- Jeffrey said he'd welcome specific suggestions and ideas about how to engage individuals and organizations from underrepresented communities.
- The SGMCC learned that many materials for the meetings and the draft EA will be translated into Spanish.
- There was a lot of discussion focused on the Monument Management Plan being an appendix to the EA and an amendment to the existing Land and Resources Management Plan instead of a standalone management plan. Joseph explained that the ID team is aware of the challenge - the approach didn't create a one-stop-shop to view the plan. Instead, readers have to start with the assumption that the existing forest plan contains most of the direction for the National Monument and Appendix C includes direction that needed to be added to the plan to address the Proclamation. Additionally, the ID team chose to use management approaches in the Management Plan to address conservation education, interpretative, and partnership direction instead of more restrictive standards, guidelines, or objectives.
- SGMCC members suggested creating hyperlinks in the Monument Management Plan to link to the existing plan, but staff explained that the plan needs to be 508 compliant. Links are challenging, but the ANF could bring copies of the existing plan and other references to the public meetings.

### ACTION ITEMS

- In order to help communicate the main features of the Monument Management Plan and the timelines, the ANF will develop a short reference document or "cheat sheet" to share during the public comment period.
- The SGMCC will help with outreach by sending reference materials and information about the public meetings to their constituents.

- In order to engage underrepresented stakeholders and organizations, SGMCC members are encouraged to submit contact information to the NFF. The NFF will then pass any new contacts on to the ANF for their mailing lists.

### **Review and Discuss SGMCC's Draft Monument Management Plan Comment Letter**

Before jumping into the comment letter discussion, Karen checked in with the SGMCC about the consensus process. Members confirmed their previous agreement that individual groups or organizations will not speak against the consensus comments developed by the SGMCC.

Karen also reminded the SGMCC that the group will be asked to seek consensus on a solid draft of the comment letter during the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. After that, there's one interim meeting (October 6<sup>th</sup>) to reach consensus and finalize the comment letter.

Daniel then led a discussion of the comment letter. Daniel explained that the Monument & Transportation Plan Coordinating Committee's big points include:

- The need for an inspirational vision statement
- Would like to see plan objectives with specific dates (such as a more specific transportation plan with a timeline)
- Would like to see a monitoring plan
- Encouraged by the focus on the unique characteristics of the Monument, including social and environmental justice

SGMCC members had a vigorous discussion about the pros and cons of specific timelines and detailed plans. Some members weren't sure if a high level of specificity would be consistent with the existing plan. Members also noted that they were nervous about adding unfunded mandates to the plan. Some members would like to see more accountability in terms of objectives with timelines, and noted that more specificity doesn't necessarily need to be costly. One member asked for more detailed direction for aspects of the plan such as transportation and parking to help other entities and local governments know where the agency is going in the future.

Matthew Bokach said that he hopes the ANF has a continuing relationship with the SGMCC after the Monument Management Plan is finalized. Matthew encouraged the SGMCC to share the comments they agree on, keeping in mind that the ANF may not incorporate them all, but the comments they don't incorporate (particularly those focused on more specific, project-level work) may become the focus of the SGMCC's collaboration with the FS in the future. Matthew Bokach also stated that the ANF could share their program of work for the year at the October 27, 2016 meeting.

To wrap up the discussion, the SGMCC developed a list of major upcoming action items:

- (1) **Between August 25 and Sept 22** – M&TP Coordinating Committee will be working via weekly meetings to coalesce comments into a single letter; specific members volunteered to take a deeper dive into certain parts (i.e., transportation, biological resources).
- (2) **September 8** – Deadline for each individual member send red flags to the M&TP Coordinating Committee. The Committee will then incorporate any additional comments into a draft comment letter.
- (3) **September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Optimistic date for the M&TP Coordinating Committee to distribute the draft comment letter to the SGMCC.
- (4) **Before September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – After reading the draft comment letter, SGMCC members will let the M&TP Coordinating Committee and NFF know about specific areas where there will need to be consensus building during the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- (5) **September 22<sup>nd</sup> SGMCC Meeting** – SGMCC will review draft comment letter and seek consensus. The goal is for everyone in the room to be comfortable with the draft, knowing that they'll need to check with their constituents before the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (final consensus/vote)
- (6) **Between meetings on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>** – members share the letter with their constituencies and resolve any issues before reaching overall consensus.
- (7) **October 6<sup>th</sup> – Special meeting to reach consensus and finalize the comment letter**
- (8) **October 17<sup>th</sup> – Public comment period deadline**

**CONSENSUS:** Approve the above process and action items to finalize the draft EA/Monument Management Plan comment letter.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- SGMCC members must send the M&TP Coordinating Committee any concerns, language suggestions, or flags by September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The M&TP Coordinating Committee will host at least one “study session” with pizza for members to talk in depth about the comment letter.
- SGMCC members will assist with outreach and communications by promoting the public meetings and webinar, and potentially providing feedback on the reference document the Forest Service is creating.
- SGMCC members will also help, as needed, by providing feedback on the public meeting format and potentially serving as a focus group to test the public meeting format. NFF will reach out to Justin Seastrand to see if there are opportunities for the

SGMCC to serve as a focus group for public meetings or discuss the format. Claire Robinson, William Estrada, Steve Messer, and Daniel Rossman volunteered to help.

## Committee Updates & Proposals

### Projects & External Impacts Committee:

The Committee is meeting regularly to work on a process-driven approach to develop criteria and a prioritized project list. The committee is also developing disclaimer language for letters of support. They will share a proposal with the SGMCC during the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The committee is actively soliciting SGMCC members and the Forest Service for projects or other activities that they could work on. The SGMCC discussed opportunities to work on projects after the comment period ends. NFF suggested that project priorities and on-the-ground work could be the focus of the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Matthew suggested that the Committee could also take on other things that are part of the SGMCC's comments but don't make it into the Monument Management Plan.

Committee members are also planning to share an updated draft letter in support of the Kizh Big Rock Monument with the SGMCC on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mike McNutt graciously developed the first draft. Gary Stickel will fill in the missing details and send the letter to the NFF to share with the SGMCC prior to the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### ACTION ITEMS

- To help the Projects & External Impacts Committee move forward on project-related work, Chris Solek will contact Matthew Bokach about project opportunities. Matthew could provide contacts and other information to Chris to help him get started.
- To prepare for a discussion to approve the letter in support of the Kizh Big Rock Monument on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gary Stickel will fill in the missing details in the letter and send it to the NFF to share with the SGMCC **before** the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### Communications & Engagement Committee:

Jack Sahl updated the SGMCC on the Committee's recent activities. The Committee developed an Excel sheet with a list of potential press contacts, and is currently preparing media outreach focused on the Monument Movement Plan public comment period. The Committee is going to begin generating information with core messages and SGMCC letterhead. Members asked of the Committee could provide talking points for members to use if they speak with the media. The Committee suggested the following talking points:

- *SGMCC is a collaborative representing multiple perspectives.*
- *The San Gabriel Mountains Monument is a fantastic resource and the SGMCC wants to help people understand its relevance and uniqueness.*

- SGMCC is looking forward to engaging in the Monument planning process and encourages the public to provide input into that process.

### Amigos de los Rios - National Monument Visitor Use Map Project

Claire Robinson shared a new mapping project that Amigos de los Rios is leading. In an effort to develop an effective visitor map for the National Monument, Amigos solicited maps from National Monuments and National Parks around the country. Based on the maps they received, Amigos put together a mockup for a brochure, legend, and a map that would help people understand the Monument resource. They are hoping to jumpstart or fast-track the development of an official map, or use the map as a tool for partner organizations to work with the public. Claire's presentation is [available for download online](#).

SGMCC members provided feedback during the meeting:

- Mount Powell is missing, and the fish species need full names.
- Review the names of the San Gabriel River to ensure the labeling is correct.
- Review access points; some access points that are currently closed are on the map.
- Check out the [Overdrive exhibit in the Getty Museum](#); it's a 15-year project to map the San Gabriel basin.

### ACTION ITEMS

- To help Amigos de los Rios advance the visitor map project, members are encouraged to send feedback or suggestions to Claire.
- Matthew Bokach will connect Claire with a cartographer in the Regional Office to discuss the visitor map project.

### Upcoming Meetings

NFF staff introduced a roadmap document showing upcoming SGMCC meetings and activities. The roadmap will be a living document that the group will review during each meeting. Committees should provide activity and meeting details to the NFF to ensure the roadmap is up-to-date.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The next SGMCC meeting will be **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at Taylor Hall in Claremont (1775 N Indian Hill Blvd, Claremont, CA 91711)**.
- All upcoming meetings are on a new online calendar on the SGMCC webpage: <https://www.nationalforests.org/sangabrielmountains>.



**RE-CAP: ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**

- In order to help communicate the main features of the Monument Management Plan and the timelines, the ANF will develop a short reference document or “cheat sheet” to share during the public comment period.
- The SGMCC will help with outreach by sending reference materials and information about the public meetings to their constituents.
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- SGMCC members must send the M&TP Coordinating Committee any concerns, language suggestions, or flags by September 8<sup>th</sup>.
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- To help the Projects & External Impacts Committee move forward on project-related work, Chris Solek will contact Matthew Bokach about project opportunities. Matthew could provide contacts and other information to Chris to help him get started.
- To prepare for a discussion to approve the letter in support of the Kizh Big Rock Monument on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Gary Stickel will fill in the missing details in the letter and send it to the NFF to share with the SGMCC **before** the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- To help Amigos de los Rios advance the visitor map project, members are encouraged to send feedback or suggestions to Claire.
- Matthew Bokach will connect Claire with a cartographer in the Regional Office to discuss the visitor map project.

**Record of Decisions**

Decision	Consensus
Approve the above process and milestones to finalize the draft EA/Monument Management Plan comment letter.	Yes