

MEETING RECORD
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

Thursday, January 26, 2017 – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
 Altadena Community Center, Altadena, CA

ATTENDEES

Member	Present
Jacqueline Ayer , Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley) and Acton Town Council	X
Dale Benson , California Department of Transportation, District 7	X
Tim Brick , Arroyo Seco Foundation	X
Irma "Kelly" Carle , Antelope Valley Unit, Backcountry Horseman of California	X
Margaret Clark , Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	X
William Estrada , Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County	X
Belinda Faustinos , San Gabriel Mountains Forever	X
Cliff Hamlow , San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers	X
Dianne Erskine Hellrigel , Community Hiking Club	X
Kelly Gardner , San Gabriel Valley Water Association	X
Armond Ghazarian , Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	X
Richard Guttenberg ,	X

Archeology/Culture	
Cliff Hamlow , San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers	X
Joseph Lyons , San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments	X
Kevin McNevin , San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (for Daniel Oaxaca)	X
Steve Messer , Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association	X
John Monsen , The Sierra Club	X
Chuck Myers , National Forest Homeowners	X
Judy Nelson , City of Glendora	X
Michelle Nuttall , Southern California Edison	X
Bill Reeves , Fisheries Resources Volunteer Corps	X
Liz Reilly , San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments	X
Claire Robinson , Amigos de los Rios	X
Daniel Rossman , The Wilderness Society	X
W. Lee Smith , California Rifle and Pistol Association (for Rick Travis)	X
Gary Stickel , Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians (for Andrew Salas)	X

FOREST SERVICE

Jeffrey Vail, Angeles National Forest

CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM

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

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Supervisor Vail will forward a letter describing the action items to improve the special uses program to the NFF to share with the SGMCC.
- 2) Daniel Rossman asked how comments were counted, referencing Vail's comment that the ANF received 200 comments. Supervisor Vail said he'd follow up with Daniel regarding the counting methods.
- 3) Michelle Nuttall, Tim Brick, Daniel Rossman, Claire Robinson, Liz Reill and Steve Messer will update and refine the National Trail Stewardship Act recommendation letter and send it back to the SMGCC for final review. NFF will facilitate transmittal of the letter.
- 4) Steering Committee will vet the application from Barry Wetherby for the Recreation (motorized) seat and bring a proposal to the February meeting.
- 5) NFF staff will update the membership records to show that Kelly Carle is the primary equestrian representative. Tamara Robinson has resigned.
- 6) Steering Committee will prepare a broad membership proposal which will potentially include a second public safety seat (among other recommendations) for consideration by the SGMCC in the future.
- 7) During the February meeting, the SGMCC will vote on whether the SGMCC should engage in other collaborative or coordination efforts and seek to have formal representation on various committees.
- 8) During the February meeting, the SGMCC will vote whether the SGMCC should have a representative on the Transit to Trails committee. To prepare for the discussion, Belinda and Daniel will put together a written proposal so the group has more details about the committee and request.
- 9) The SGMCC agreed to have the Projects and External Impacts Committee discuss Measure A & M prior to the February meeting. The committee could potentially recommend establishing an ad hoc committee to discuss how Measure A funds could be leveraged.
- 10) NFF will bring a budget showing facilitation/coordination options to the February meeting so the SGMCC can get a better sense of the costs.
- 11) In an effort to understand facilitation and coordination needs, each committee will review committee charter and goals, and address the following questions: What is our mission, vision and goals for 2017? What do we need in terms of facilitation and coordination to achieve these goals?

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Karen DiBari and Joe Lyons opened the meeting. Twenty-six SGMCC members and one Forest Service representative was present during the meeting.

SGMCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

SGMCC members shared several announcements at the start of the meeting:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture appointed Michelle Nuttall to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Committee for implementation of the 2012 Planning Rule.

Congrats, Michelle!

- Metro is hosting the 626 Golden Streets event on Sunday, March 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. along a 17 mile stretch of the gold line. The event is free. More information is online at 626goldenstreets.com.
- Bill Reeves attended the state water quality board meeting in San Bernardino related to suction dredge mining permits. The comment period for the process ends at the end of February; more information is available here: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/suction_dredge_mining.shtml.
- Gary Stickel invited members to a presentation about the Gabrieleno Tribe on February 16th at the Pasadena Public Library.
- Karen reported that members approved the December SGMCC meeting record. [The record is online.](#)

NFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to Emily Olsen who will be starting the new Colorado Manager position with the NFF in February. Emily's current position will be filled, but she will be missed by all.
- Vance Russell has resigned as the California Director to be with his family in England. Vance's position is expected to be filled by March.

FOREST SERVICE UPDATES

Supervisor Jeffrey Vail provided an update on Angeles National Forest (ANF) priorities, personnel, and other items:

- High levels of rain and snow have led to mudslides on the forest. Staff are working to prioritize areas for work.
- Sherry Rollman retired from the role as Public Affairs Officer (PAO). An acting PAO, Jamahl Butler, is currently serving in her place.
- The Forests Safety Officer, Ron Ashdale, passed away in December, and the Forest Service is grieving. The San Bernardino National Forest is currently providing safety personnel in support of the Angeles.
- The ANF is on track to release the final Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice in June for the Monument Management Plan Amendment.
- The federal employee hiring freeze is impacting the ANF's ability to staff seasonal fire crews and other seasonal positions.
- Thank you to the SGMCC for submitting the letter in support of the Chilao Campground and Visitor Center Water System. Unfortunately the ANF's proposal wasn't successful, but the SGMCC's voice still mattered.
- Top three ANF priorities haven't changed:
 - Completion of the Monument Management Plan, and with the plan, reorganization from three districts to two.
 - Health and safety of employees and visitors.
 - Improving the special uses program, including improving billing processes, updating processes for communications sites, and other action items (11 total).

ACTION ITEM

- 1) Supervisor Vail will forward a letter describing the action items to improve the special uses program to the NFF to share with the SGMCC.

DISCUSSION OF SGMCC COMMENT LETTER

Supervisor Vail outlined the ANF's broad approach and thoughts in response to the SGMCC comment letter and 12 sections. Vail also noted that the ANF received about 200 unique comments with different thoughts, and would not be responding to those comments during the meeting.

- Unified plan – Agree that having one document would be useful, but for various reasons must include two documents.
- Vision statement – Idea has a lot of merit, and the ANF is making use of quite a bit of the SGMCC's proposed language.
- Objectives and other components – Some recommendations would depend on future budgets and are not workable. Some proposed recommendations may be appropriate as goals. Also recognize that the ANF would like to work toward a multi-year program of work and the SGMCC's involvement in the program of work could be helpful. For the monitoring plan, the ANF perspective is that the existing monitoring plan, which was developed in the past few years, will serve the needs of the Monument. For standards and guidelines, ANF believes language in the 2006 plan, and the standards and guidelines in the plan, will protect objects and uphold the ANF's responsibilities under the Proclamation.
- Objects of interests – ANF maintains a list of species and tracks conditions over time. The time, effort, and controversy associated with listing and mapping every object and species may be questionable in terms of value and necessity.
- Purpose of Monument Plan – ANF generally agrees with the SGMCC.
- Sustainable recreation, visitation, interpretation, education – ANF generally agrees with the SGMCC, but sees some redundancies with existing agency policy. The ANF will likely decline to create a recreation plan, largely because those actions are covered under existing policies. The ANF will, however, adopt the recommendation to create a visitor education and interpretation plan. Youth are our future, and the entire LA basin needs to be considered.
- Heritage resources – ANF agrees with some of the confusion around terms and phrases, and will clean up the language. Staff did have a question about the five year intervals for monitoring and would like to follow up with SGMCC members.
- Biological resources – ANF already works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and leads and participates in recovery efforts for threatened and endangered species. Project-level compliance and protections in the existing plan are sufficient.
- Climate change – ANF feels that existing guidance is significant and sufficient.
- Energy resources – ANF would like to work with the SGMCC and other stakeholders to mitigate impacts from mining. The forest isn't in favor of pursuing regulatory processes, but would rather look at strategies such as targeted public education.
- Suitability of lands – ANF will make adjustments to address concerns related to critical biological zones. The ANF will also likely decline the recommendation to include water language from the proclamation in the plan, though they can add references to water

resources policy. The ANF can't include some proclamation without including all of it, because that would give certain sections more weight than others.

- Transportation plan – ANF is continuing transportation efforts, and are planning to incorporate a number of the SMGCC edits, including some language about Forest Service roles and responsibilities versus those of other jurisdictions.

ACTION ITEM

- 2) Daniel Rossman asked how comments were counted, referencing Vail's comment that the ANF received 200 comments. Supervisor Vail said he'd follow up with Daniel regarding the counting methods.

National Trail Stewardship Act

Michelle Nuttall shared a draft letter requesting designation of the Angeles National Forest as a priority area for increased trail maintenance accomplishments, for the SGMCC to discuss and review. The letter is due to national and regional trails staff by February 28th. The Collaborative also decided to send the letter to U.S. Forest Service Chief Tidwell and Congressional representatives.

Consensus decision: After much discussion, members voted that a small committee should refine and update the letter and send it around for final review (asking only for objections) via email prior to submitting the letter.

ACTION ITEM

- 3) Michelle Nuttall, Tim Brick, Daniel Rossman, Claire Robinson, and Steve Messer will update and refine the National Trail Stewardship Act recommendation letter and send it back to the SMGCC for final review. NFF will facilitate transmittal of the letter.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Steering Committee

- **Membership –**
 - The Steering Committee received a membership application from Barry Wetherby to fill the Recreation (Motorized) seat. The Steering Committee will vet the application and return to the February meeting with a proposal.
 - Mike McNutt recently moved positions from Palmdale Water District to Southern California Metropolitan Water District; he will continue on the Collaborative as a member in the Water Category.
 - Chris Solek recently moved positions from the Council for Watershed Health to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a biologist. Chris will continue to work with the Collaborative in the Academia seat.
 - Tamara Robinson has to resign from the Equestrian seat. Kelly Carle, the current alternate, will take Tamara's seat.
 - North side representation – Members urged the Steering Committee to consider the need for North side representation when filling open seats.
 - Michael Vercillo, CSO from the Arcadia Police Department, is interested in joining the group or helping out in any way he can. The Steering Committee

proposed creating a second public safety seat focused on law enforcement (there is currently one public safety seat, filled by Henry Herrera with CalFire). After much discussion about the second proposed seat, the SGMCC decided to table the discussion for a future meeting. In the meantime, the Steering Committee will work on a broader membership proposal.

ACTION ITEMS

- 4) Steering Committee will vet the application from Barry Wetherby for the Recreation (motorized) seat and bring a proposal to the February meeting.
- 5) NFF staff will update the membership records to show that Kelly Carle is the primary equestrian representative. Tamara Robinson has resigned.
- 6) Steering Committee will prepare a broad membership proposal which will potentially include a second public safety seat (among other recommendations) for consideration by the SGMCC in the future.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Transit to Trails

- Belinda Faustinos, Daniel Rossman, ANF staff, and representatives from other partner organizations are participating in the Transit to Trails effort through a committee. They proposed having one SGMCC member officially represent the Collaborative on the committee, as Belinda is representing San Gabriel Mountains Forever and Daniel is representing the Wilderness Society.
- As a next step, the SGMCC agreed to vote during the February meeting on (1) whether the SGMCC should engage in other collaborative or coordination efforts and seek to have formal representation on various committees, and (2) whether the SGMCC will have a representative on the Transit to Trails committee.

ACTION ITEMS

- 7) During the February meeting, the SGMCC will vote on whether the SGMCC should engage in other collaborative or coordination efforts and seek to have formal representation on various committees.
- 8) During the February meeting, the SGMCC will vote whether the SGMCC should have a representative on the Transit to Trails committee. To prepare for the discussion, Belinda and Daniel will put together a written proposal so the group has more details about the committee and request.

Measure A & M

- Joe Lyons explained that the cities adjacent to the ANF will be developing a list of opportunities with Measure A funds and they might be able to align their priorities with Forest Service priorities. It was agreed it would be worthwhile to have the Collaborative evaluate this opportunity.

ACTION ITEM

- 9) The SGMCC agreed to have the Projects and External Impacts Committee discuss Measure A & M prior to the February meeting. The committee could potentially recommend establishing an ad hoc committee to discuss how Measure A funds could be leveraged.

Future of the SGMCC

- Karen DiBari explained that the NFF’s funding from the Forest Service will allow the NFF to continue facilitating the group until June 2017, but the SGMCC should start thinking about what types of needs they will have after that.
- SGMCC discussed the need to examine the membership list and gaps and determine the structure and priorities of the SGMCC after the Monument Management Plan is finalized in June.
- SGMCC will need to determine needs (facilitation and coordination) based on the post-Monument Management Plan structure.
- In order to aid future discussions, members proposed that each committee should review the committee charter and goals, and address the following questions:
 - What is our mission, vision and goals for 2017?
 - What do we need in terms of facilitation and coordination to achieve these goals?

ACTION ITEMS

- 10) NFF will bring a budget showing facilitation/coordination options to the February meeting so the SGMCC can get a better sense of the costs.
- 11) In an effort to understand facilitation and coordination needs, each committee will review committee charter and goals, and address the following questions: What is our mission, vision and goals for 2017? What do we need in terms of facilitation and coordination to achieve these goals?

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Decision	Consensus
Approve an ad-hoc committee to refine and update the National Trail Stewardship Act recommendation letter and send it around for final review (asking only for objections) via email prior to submitting the letter.	Yes