

MEETING RECORD  
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

Thursday, April 27, 2017 – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM  
Altadena Community Center, Altadena, CA

**SGMCC ATTENDEES (SEE LAST PAGE)**

**FOREST SERVICE**

Jeffrey Vail, Matthew Bokach, Angeles National Forest (ANF)

**CONVENERS/FACILITATION TEAM**

Karen DiBari and Edward Belden, National Forest Foundation (NFF)

**RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS**

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1. Daniel Rossman, Tim Brick, Liz Reilly, and Steve Messer will work with the ANF to plan the June 22 meeting regarding the ANF Program of Work.
  2. Cliff Hamlow, Diane Erskine-Hellrigel, Jacki Ayer, Lee Smith and Michelle Nuttall will develop the full draft letter in response to the Executive Order within a week to share with the full SGMCC.
  3. SGMCC members will circulate the draft letter to get input from their organizations with the goal of revising and approving the letter at the May 25, 2017 SGMCC meeting.
  4. NFF will followup to receive contacts from Supervisor Vail about developing the Case Study about the SGMCC.
  5. The NFF will report back to the SGMCC about the process for receiving an objection resolution meeting invitation.
  6. Claire Robinson, Daniel Rossman, Jack Sahl and Joe Lyons will work together to develop a draft Communications Plan for the SGMCC by the June 22 meeting.
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**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Karen DiBari opened the meeting, and everyone said hello around the table. Twenty Seven San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative (SGMCC) members and two Forest Service representatives were present during the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Joe Lyons and Daniel Rossman reported that the Forest Service Regional Office (Region) will be responding in writing to the SGMCC request that the Angeles National Forest be designated a priority area for increased trail maintenance under the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Daniel stated that the Region is looking into making a recommendation to group the priority areas into Northern, Central, and Southern areas.

Karen DiBari reminded the attendees that they are invited to USFS Region 5 Capacity Building Workshop for California community-based and collaborative forest management groups, hosted by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) on May 24, 2017, in Sacramento. NFF has sent out invitations to the full Collaborative list. The registration link is [HERE](#).

Congresswoman Chu has reintroduced [the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act](#) legislation written to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument boundaries and create a new National Recreation Area (NRA) along the Foothills and San Gabriel River corridor.

Ann Croissant mentioned that the annual Operation Super Canyon Sweep in the San Gabriel Canyon, is scheduled for June 10. The lead organizer, Barry Wetherby is not able to finish the organization of the event this year and Ann is looking for volunteers to take on this task.

### **FOREST SERVICE UPDATES**

Supervisor Jeffrey Vail provided an update on Angeles National Forest (ANF) and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument:

- President Trump issued an Executive Order to review National Monuments established through the Antiquities Act since 1996; this includes the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.
- The ANF hosted Coca-Cola employees and representatives for a tour and volunteer Earth Day event. Congresswoman Chu joined in thanking Coca-Cola for their \$900,000 contribution to support restoration and youth in the Monument.
- Secretary Sonny Perdue was confirmed as the Agriculture Secretary, which should provide more direction at the Forest Service Washington Office.
- The general hiring freeze was partially lifted but is still in effect for permanent positions that are not related to fire.
- The ANF is gearing up for the fire season.
- President Trump's skinny budget proposed a 20% cut in USDA programs.
- The USFS Region 5 (CA) is looking into how to work with a lower budget. The administration may ask that the current 3 billion board feet be doubled, which may mean a shifting of resources toward timber-heavy forests. Resources including staff may have to be shared at a regional level to address any budget shifts.
- The mission and laws of the National Forest have not changed, but people may see some changes in operations and personnel due to the Regional prioritization efforts
- Drinkwater OHV area is being evaluated with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and LA County Parks and Rec.
- Chuck Myers mentioned that the Cabin Fee Act ensures that more of the dollars go straight through to the Forest and not directly to the Treasury.
- Supervisor Vail suggested that the SGMCC continue to share its accomplishments and look for additional opportunities to focus on particular projects and programs to move toward implementation.
- Cliff Hamlow thanked Supervisor Vail for speaking to a group about the ANF. Supervisor Vail would like to have more ANF staff speak at public events.

### **Questions and Answers:**

- Q: Is there an opportunity for members of the Collaborative to help the ANF to get more work accomplished.
- A: Yes, Supervisor Vail is eager to work with groups to help, just needs to make sure that these efforts are coordinated with the Forest Service. He is looking into working with other regional entities including the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.

**Discussion of Incorporating a Public Process into the Program of Work**

- The ANF is interested in finding an approach to incorporate the public and SGMCC into the process.
- Supervisor Vail reviewed the process and put forward a new proposal. The proposal is to have the ANF host a public dialogue where the ANF can share and walk through the FY17 Program of Work (POW) and their priorities for the FY18 POW and then get input from the public to see if they have other ideas or suggestions. It was suggested to host a 3-hour meeting with the ANF leadership creating the dialogue to answer questions about the priorities and POW.
- The ANF proposes to host the dialogue about the POW at their training center in Arcadia on June 22, 2017, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

**\*Consensus decision:** Daniel Rossman, Tim Brick, Liz Reilly, and Steve Messer will work with the ANF to plan the June 22 meeting regarding the ANF Program of Work.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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1. Daniel Rossman, Tim Brick, Liz Reilly, and Steve Messer will work with the ANF to plan the June 22 meeting regarding the ANF Program of Work.

**DISCUSSION OF A LETTER RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EO REGARDING THE REVIEW OF MONUMENTS**

- Daniel Rossman provided an introduction to the draft letter he had distributed to the SGMCC to respond to the recent Executive Order regarding National Monuments.
- The SGMCC reviewed President Trump's Executive Order which calls for the review of National Monuments established since 1996 that are greater than 100,000 acres which include the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument; you can find the full text of Executive Order [here](#).
- The SGMCC discussed the general tone and elements to include in a letter responding to the Executive Order.

**\*Consensus decision:** The SGMCC agreed to develop a letter in response to the review of the Monuments. A small subcommittee outlined the main points and tone to be included in the letter. Cliff Hamlow, Diane Erskine-Hellrigel, Jacki Ayer, Lee Smith and Michelle Nuttall will develop the full letter within a week to share with the full SGMCC. The SGMCC members will circulate the draft letter to get input from their organizations with the goal of revising and approving the letter at the May 25, 2017, SGMCC meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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2. Cliff Hamlow, Diane Erskine-Hellrigel, Jacki Ayer, Lee Smith and Michelle Nuttall will develop the full draft letter in response to the Executive Order within a week to share with the full SGMCC.
3. SGMCC members will circulate the draft letter to get input from their organizations with the goal of revising and approving the letter at the May 25, 2017 SGMCC meeting.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS & WRAP UP

### **Forest Service Federal Advisory Committee**

Michelle mentioned that the FS Federal Advisory Committee on the Planning Rule is trying to figure out what was done to coordinate and develop the SGMCC to make it work so well.

Supervisor Vail suggested that the SGMCC develop a Case Study around the SGMCC for Harvard, Yale, Virginia or one of the other schools that offer US Forest Leadership training. NFF will follow up to receive contacts from Supervisor Vail about developing this Case Study.

### **Objection Process**

Karen discussed what was in the handout about the objection process.

The SGMCC has standing to object as it has filed substantial comments. If an objection resolution meeting is held it is open to the public and since the SGMCC filed comments, the group qualifies as an interested party and can participate in the meeting. The NFF will report back to the SGMCC about the process for receiving an objection resolution meeting invitation.

### **SGMCC Action Plan**

The Steering Committee Action Plan was reviewed and updated.

The full SGMCC Action Plan will be reviewed and approved during the May 25, 2017, meeting.

### **Communications Plan**

The development of a clear communications plan including various policies was discussed.

Claire Robinson, Daniel Rossman, Jack Sahl and Joe Lyons will work together to develop a draft Communications Plan for the SGMCC by the June 22 meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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4. NFF will followup to receive contacts from Supervisor Vail about developing the Case Study about the SGMCC.
5. The NFF will report back to the SGMCC about the process for receiving an objection resolution meeting invitation.
6. Claire Robinson, Daniel Rossman, Jack Sahl and Joe Lyons will work together to develop a draft Communications Plan for the SGMCC by the June 22 meeting.

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- Individual responses to the meeting:
- I appreciate the lengthy and robust discussion – want to keep having this.
- I appreciate the experience of hearing other points of view that I am not normally exposed to and this is really positive and valuable.
- I hope to keep up the energy and enthusiasm to move forward.
- Our groups are well represented in this excellent discussion/dialogue.
- I think we can find a way to a fact-based argument and middle-ground to articulate a letter in response to the executive order.
- I am happy that the SGMCC is trying to do the greatest good.
- Our area is pro-monument but wasn't before due to the diversity of discussion.
- From my personal point of view I have seen how the Monument has evolved and hope that other constituents will feel the same way.
- Open space is a political issue, and it is important to support.
- Appreciate hearing the opposing views; eye-opening to hear conflicting interests; and wants that to continue.
- Monument has brought changes to a corner of the forest that haven't happened since 1930.
- The Monument has spurred some transformative projects because attention is being given where it wasn't before.
- Thanks for taking the letter to the President under consideration; I recognize that people are coming from different places, and I want to thank everyone for carefully and thoughtfully thinking through how this group can support.
- I am encouraged by the vigorous and robust debate.
- Great discussion – hope the letter can represent everyone's views; the facts should speak for themselves.
- Feel positive we can work through the hiccups.
- Wish my area was within the Monument; has focused attention on the San Gabriel Mountains and the care and attention it needs; Forest Service has really improved how they work with the public and communities; if we don't support the Monument, who is going to?
- Remarkable to get 42 people in a room and have them reach agreement; if state and federal agreement operated like this it would budge a little more; proud to be a member of the collaborative.
- This whole experience has raised the level of awareness across the entire valley; this is the first time people are talking cross-boundaries and come to problem-solving; we want everyone to show up on June 10 for the Operation Super Canyon Sweep!
- Edison is sponsoring a cleanup on the same day for the LA River. Appreciate how people have developed the trust, so people share their views and stretch for consensus, but no one worries about shouting each other down.
- Many groups around the state are paying attention to the SGMCC; other groups are watching and looking to this group to build community support and maximize benefits of collaborative dialogue.
- Excited that the SGMCC is thinking ahead to future generations; thinking about what we are leaving in place for the future.

**RECORD OF DECISIONS**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Consensus</b>
Daniel Rossman, Tim Brick, Liz Reilly, and Steve Messer will work with the ANF to develop and host the dialogue meeting regarding the ANF Program of Work on June 22.	Yes
The SGMCC agreed to develop a letter in response to the review of the Monuments. A small subcommittee outlined the main points and tone to be included in the letter. Cliff Hamlow, Diane Erskine-Hellrigel, Jacki Ayer, Lee Smith and Michelle Nuttall will develop the full letter within a week to share with the full SGMCC. The SGMCC members will circulate the draft letter to get input from their organizations with the goal of revising and approving the letter at the May 25, 2017, SGMCC meeting.	Yes

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**SGMCC ATTENDEES**

Member	Present	Member	Present
<b>Jacqueline Ayer</b> , Association of Rural Town Councils (Antelope Valley) and Acton Town Council	x	<b>Becky Mandich</b> (for Michelle Nuttall), SCE	
<b>Paul Bauer</b> (For Ben Smith), Mountain High & Stevens Pass		<b>Mark Masaoka</b> , Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)	
<b>Eric Baul</b> (for Armond Ghazarian), Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (For		<b>Debra Mendelsohn</b> , LA County Board of Supervisors – 5th District (Barger)	
<b>Dale Benson</b> , CalTrans, District 7		<b>Steve Messer</b> , Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association	x
<b>Gary Boyer</b> (for Judy Nelson), City of Glendora	x	<b>John Monsen</b> , The Sierra Club	x
<b>Tim Brick</b> , Arroyo Seco Foundation	x	<b>Roberto Morales</b> (for John Monsen), The Sierra Club	
<b>Josh Candelaria</b> , San Bernardino Board of Supervisors 2nd District		<b>Roberto Morales</b> (for Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel), The Sierra Club	
<b>Kelly Carle</b> , Equestrian	x	<b>Chuck Myers</b> , National Forest Homeowners	x
<b>Debbie Chapman</b> (for Henry Herrera), CalFire		<b>Nancy Negrete</b> (for Robert Garcia), The City Project	x
<b>Margaret Clark</b> , Rivers & Mountains Conservancy		<b>Judy Nelson</b> , City of Glendora	
<b>Ann Croissant</b> , San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy	x	<b>Michelle Nuttall</b> , Southern California Edison	x
<b>Robby Ellingson</b> (For Ron Ellingson), Mt. Baldy Lodge		<b>Daniel Oaxaca</b> , San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps	
<b>Ron Ellingson</b> , Mt. Baldy Lodge	x	<b>Toni Penn</b> (for ), Gateway Water Management Authority	
<b>Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel</b> , Community Hiking Club	x	<b>JJ Ortega</b> (for Daniel Oaxaca), San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps	
<b>William Estrada</b> , Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County		<b>William (Bill) Reeves</b> , Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps	x
<b>Belinda Faustinos</b> , San Gabriel Mountains Forever		<b>Liz Reilly</b> , San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments	x
<b>Greg Galindo</b> (for Kelly Gardner), San Gabriel Valley Water Association		<b>Claire Robinson</b> , Amigos de los Rios	x
<b>Robert Garcia</b> , City Project		<b>Dan Rosenfeld</b> , Community Partners, Trust for Public Lands	
<b>Kelly Gardner</b> , San Gabriel Valley Water Association		<b>Daniel Rossman</b> , The Wilderness Society	x
<b>Armond Ghazarian</b> , Los Angeles Department of Public Works	x	<b>Jack Sahl</b> , Friends of the Angeles Forest	x
<b>Roy Glauthier</b> (for Chuck Meyers), National Forest Homeowners		<b>Andrew Salas</b> , Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	
<b>Omar Gomez</b> , COFEM		<b>Jeff Seymour</b> , El Monte City School District, El Monte Promise Foundation	
<b>Richard Guttenberg</b> , Archeology/Culture	x	<b>Andrew Silva</b> (for Josh Candelaria), San Bernardino Board of Supervisors 2nd District	
<b>Cliff Hamlow</b> , San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers	x	<b>W. Lee Smith</b> (for Rick Travis), California Rifle and Pistol Association	x
<b>Javier Hernandez</b> , LA County Board of Supervisors – 1st District (Solis)		<b>Ben Smith</b> , Community of Wrightwood	x
<b>Henry Herrera</b> , CalFire	x	<b>Mark Stanley</b> (for Margaret Clark), Rivers & Mountains Conservancy	
<b>Jenny Johnson</b> (for Steve Messer), Mountain Wilson Bicycling Association		<b>Gary Stickel</b> (for Andrew Salas), Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation	x
<b>Grace J. Kast</b> , Gateway Water Management Authority		<b>Linda Taira</b> (for Dale Benson), CalTrans, District 7	
<b>Wendy La</b> (for Ann Croissant), San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy		<b>Brent Tercero</b> , Gateway Council of Governments	
<b>Jackson Lam</b> (for Mark Masaoka), Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council	x	<b>John Tobin</b> (for Bill Reeves), Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps	
<b>Wendy La (for Ann Croissant)</b> , San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy		<b>Rick Travis</b> , California Rifle and Pistol Association	
<b>Joseph Lyons</b> , San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments	x	<b>Amy Wong</b> (for Belinda Faustinos), San Gabriel Mountains Forever	x